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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU



GENE
DAY



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

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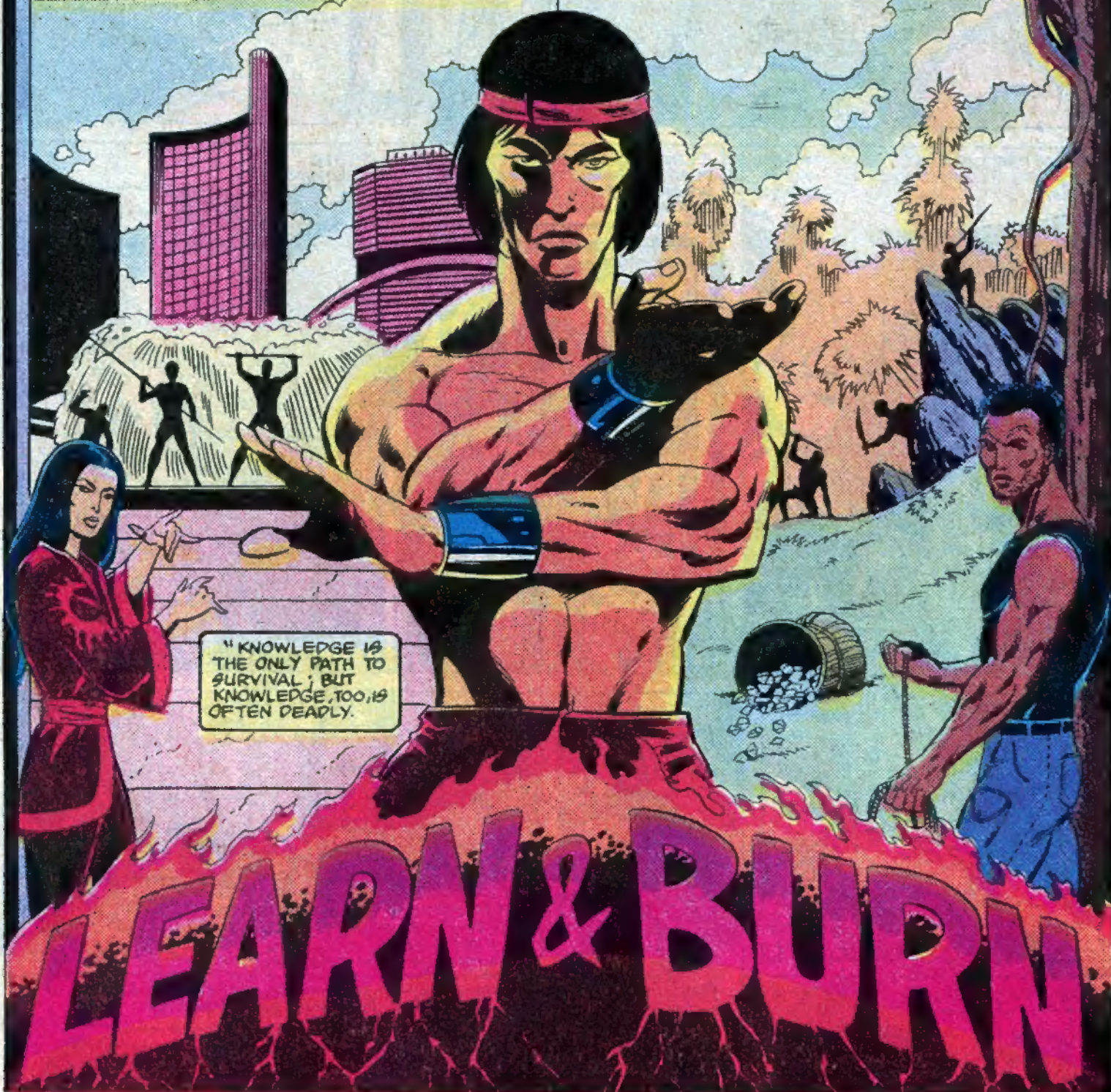
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"WE HAVE COME TO TORONTO--LEIKO WU, CLIVE RESTON, AND I-- IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF 'OPERATION: WHITE HEAT' HAS TARGETED HIM FOR DEATH. OF THE SEVEN CHINESE ASSASSINS ENCOUNTERED THUS FAR IN TORONTO, FIVE STILL LIVE."

"THE IRONY: SMITH HIMSELF REMAINS BEHIND IN BRITAIN, RACKING HIS BRAIN TO PIERCE THE SECRET BURIED DEEP IN HIS MEMORY-- THE FINAL SECRET OF 'WHITE HEAT', OF WHICH EVEN HE IS NOT YET AWARE."

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE ONLY PATH TO SURVIVAL, BUT KNOWLEDGE, TOO, IS OFTEN DEADLY."



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"WE FOLLOW THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE AGENT FROM MI-6, HE WHO IS NAMED TALON, INTO ONE OF TORONTO'S MORE SEAMY AND SINISTER QUARTERS..."

YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE, TALON?

POSITIVE, MR. RESTON--I'VE ARRANGED TO MEET MY CONTACT IN THAT PUB ACROSS THE STREET.



THIS IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN TELL US MORE ABOUT OPERATION WHITE HEAT--BUT I WARN YOU, HE'S GONE OFF THE EDGE.

QUITE SO--HE'S PSYCHOTIC.



"LIKE CHAMELEONS, THE PATRONS OF THE PLACE PERFECTLY MATCH THEIR ENVIRONMENT, WEARING FILTH AND DESPAIR, AS IF IT WERE BURIAL RAIEMENT..."

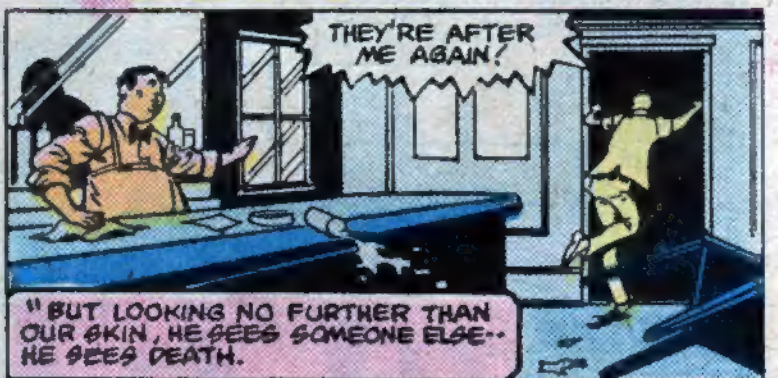
WH-WHO?



THE CHINESE!



N-NO...!



THEY'RE AFTER ME AGAIN!

"BUT LOOKING NO FURTHER THAN OUR SKIN, HE SEES SOMEONE ELSE-- HE SEES DEATH."



"HE MEANS ME..."

"... AND PERHAPS, LEIKO AT MY SIDE."



SHANG-CHI--LEIKO--YOU HANG BEHIND SO YOU DON'T SCARE HIM ANY FURTHER.

RESTON-- YOU COME WITH ME.

"BUT RESTON ALSO HANGS BACK, STILL UNABLE TO FULLY TRUST TALON-- AND SO IT IS THE MI 6 AGENT ALONE WHO PURSUES THE HAUNTED MAN DOWN HIS DISMAL ALLEY..."

SIMON! STOP!
SIMON! IT'S ME--
TALON!

THE CHINESE
WERE WITH ME!
IT'S SAFE!



IS IT TRUE? IS IT REALLY YOU,
TALON? THEN I CAN TELL YOU?

AND ONCE YOU
KNOW, MAYBE
THEY'LL LEAVE
ME ALONE--?

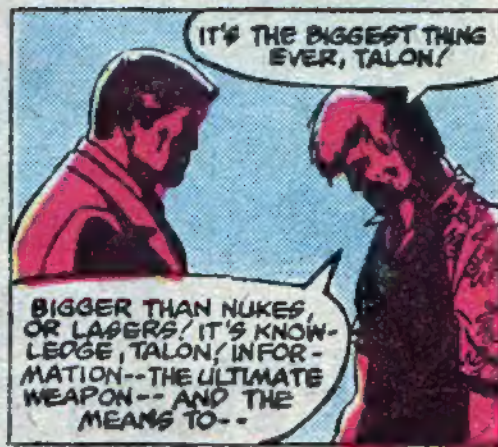


MAYBE THEY'LL
STOP HUNTING ME--AS IF I
WERE SOME DUMB ANI-
MAL TRAPPED IN A
NIGHTMARE--?

"WE EMERGE CAUTIOUSLY, TO
SEE THE CONTACT SPEAKING TO
TALON ABOUT WHITE HEAT."



IT'S THE BIGGEST THING
EVER, TALON!



BIGGER THAN NUKES,
OR LASERS! IT'S KNOW-
LEDGE, TALON! INFOR-
MATION--THE ULTIMATE
WEAPON-- AND THE
MEANS TO--

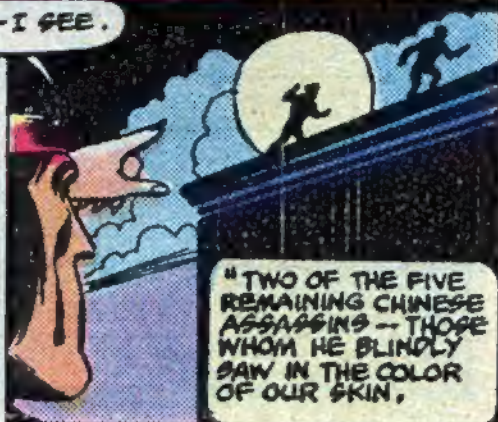


POISONED
DART-- HE'S
DYING!



THE ROOF, SHANG!

YES, LEIKO--I SEE.



"TWO OF THE FIVE
REMAINING CHINESE
ASSASSINS-- THOSE
WHOM HE BLINDLY
SAW IN THE COLOR
OF OUR SKIN,



T-TALON?

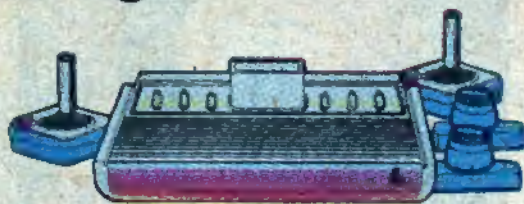


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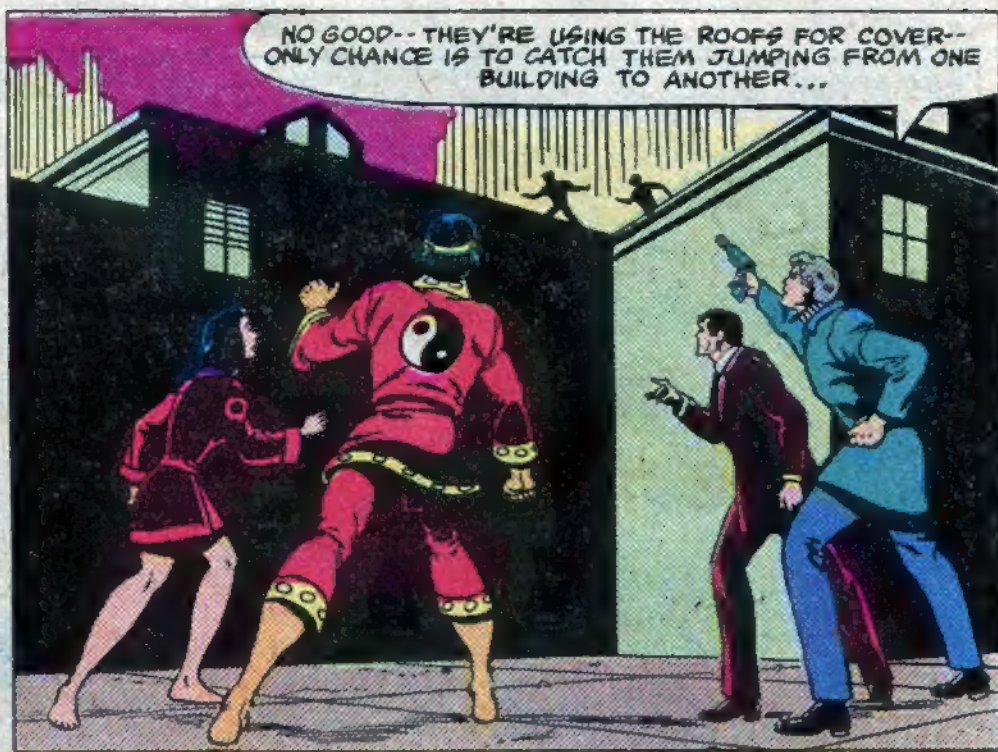
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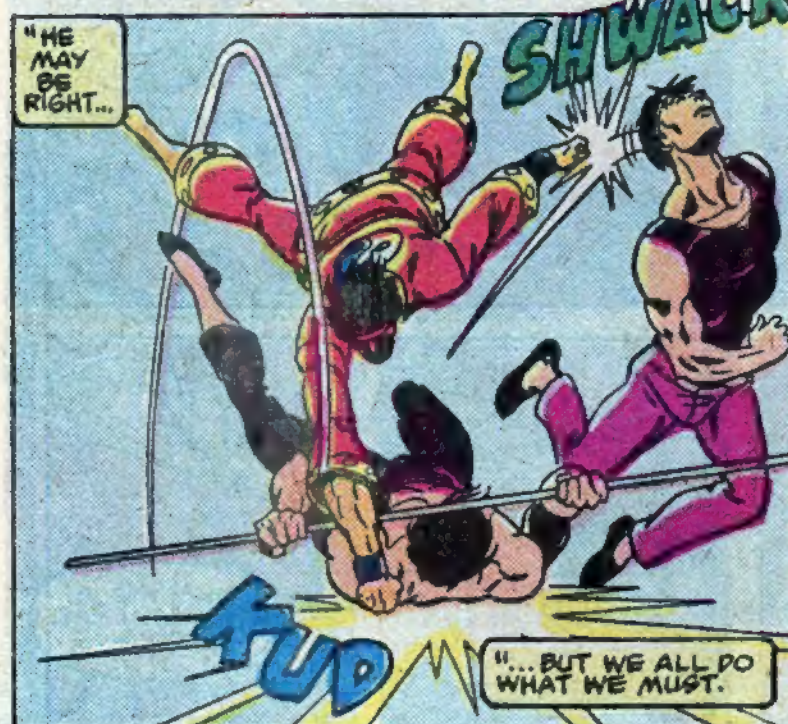


HOLD, RESTON! LET ME TRY TO TAKE THEM ALIVE FIRST!

ALL RIGHT... BUT TARR'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU, CHI...

YOU'RE TOO OBSESSED WITH PLAYING THE BLOODY HERO!

REMIND ME OF MY FATHER.



HE MAY BE RIGHT...

SHWACK

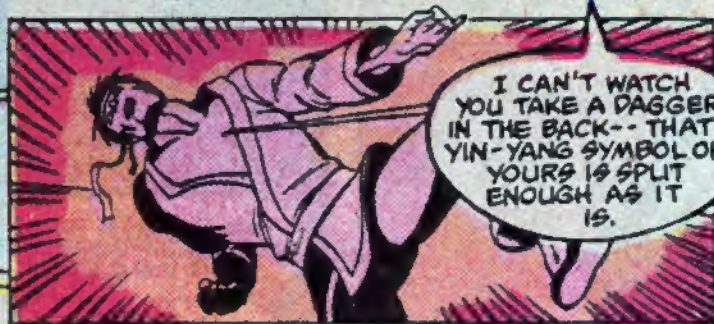
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...BUT WE ALL DO WHAT WE MUST.



LONG ENOUGH, CHI...

BRAM

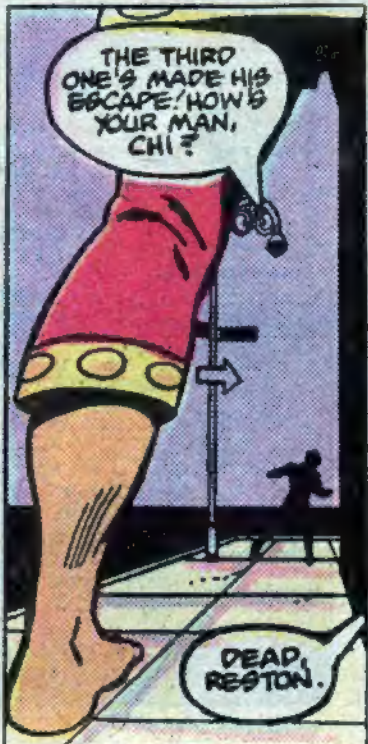


I CAN'T WATCH YOU TAKE A DAGGER IN THE BACK-- THAT YIN-YANG SYMBOL OF YOURS IS SPLIT ENOUGH AS IT IS.



THE SECOND ONE FALLS-- BUT ALREADY CLUTCHING FOR HIS CAPSULE...

KUNGH



THE THIRD ONE'S MADE HIS ESCAPE! HOW'S YOUR MAN, CHI?

DEAD, RESTON.



CYANIDE CAPSULE AGAIN, EH? I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D TAKE ANY ALIVE-- WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO LET ME SHOOT 'EM ALL...



THAT MAKES TWO DEAD-- A TOTAL OF FOUR DOWN, LEAVING THREE OF THE ORIGINAL SEVEN ALIVE AND STILL KICKING AT LARGE.

COME ON, CHI-- BETTER GET BACK TO LEIKO AND TALON.



SPEAK, SIMON! YOU'RE DYING-- TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

WHITE HEAT DOCUMENT... FORTY... FIFTY YEAR OLD SHAM... MERE CODE...

...FOR... DIAMONDS...

"HE DIES."



CODE--? DIAMONDS--? BUT THE RED REAPER NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN DIAMONDS--AND THE WHITE HEAT DOSSIER WAS A SPECULATIVE DOCUMENT CONCERNED WITH URANIUM.

YES, YES-- VERY WELL, STAND BY IN TORONTO.



BLACK JACK-- MIA-- I'VE GOT TO SUMMON THE CONTENTS OF THE DESTROYED DOSSIER FROM MY MEMORY-- AND IF IT IS INDEED A CODE, I MUST DO SO PRECISELY A SINGLE WORD WRONG AND WE'LL BE UNABLE TO DECIPHER IT.



IF YOU CAN CONQUER YOUR MEMORY, SIR DENIS, I CAN DO THE REST. BEFORE DEFECTING TO YOUR SIDE, I WAS ONE OF THE KGB'S PRIME CRYPTOGRAPHERS.

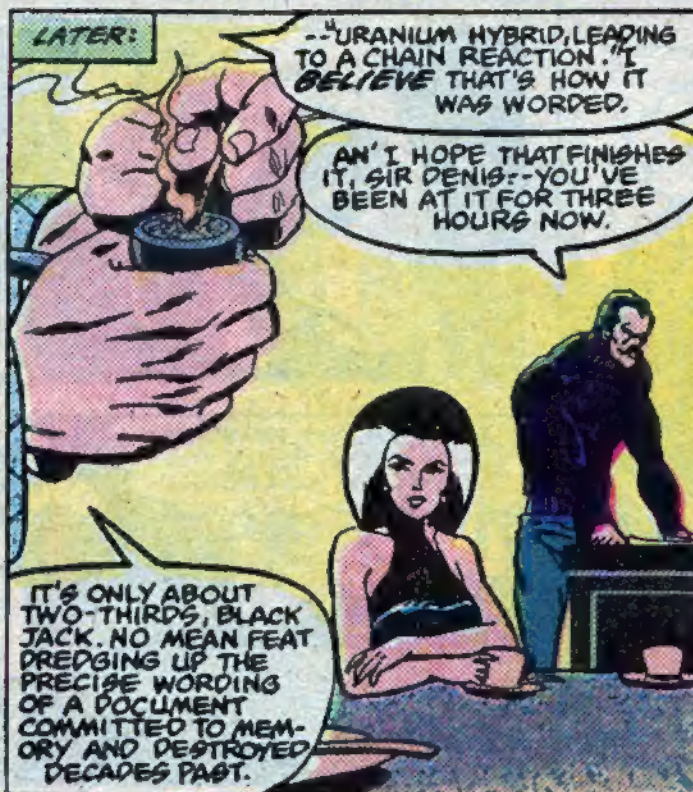
WELL, WELL, WELL, THE DARK ANGEL IS JUST FULL OF SURPRISES, AIN'T SHE?

SURPRISES-- AND SURPRISES WITHIN SURPRISES, MR. BLACK JACK TARR.



BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I PREFER BEING CALLED BY MY NEW BRITISH NAME-- MIA LESSING IS SO MUCH MORE CIVILIZED THAN "DARK ANGEL."

AND NOW, IF SIR DENIS WOULD CARE TO BEGIN DICTATING...



LATER:

--URANIUM HYBRID, LEADING TO A CHAIN REACTION. "I BELIEVE THAT'S HOW IT WAS WORDED."

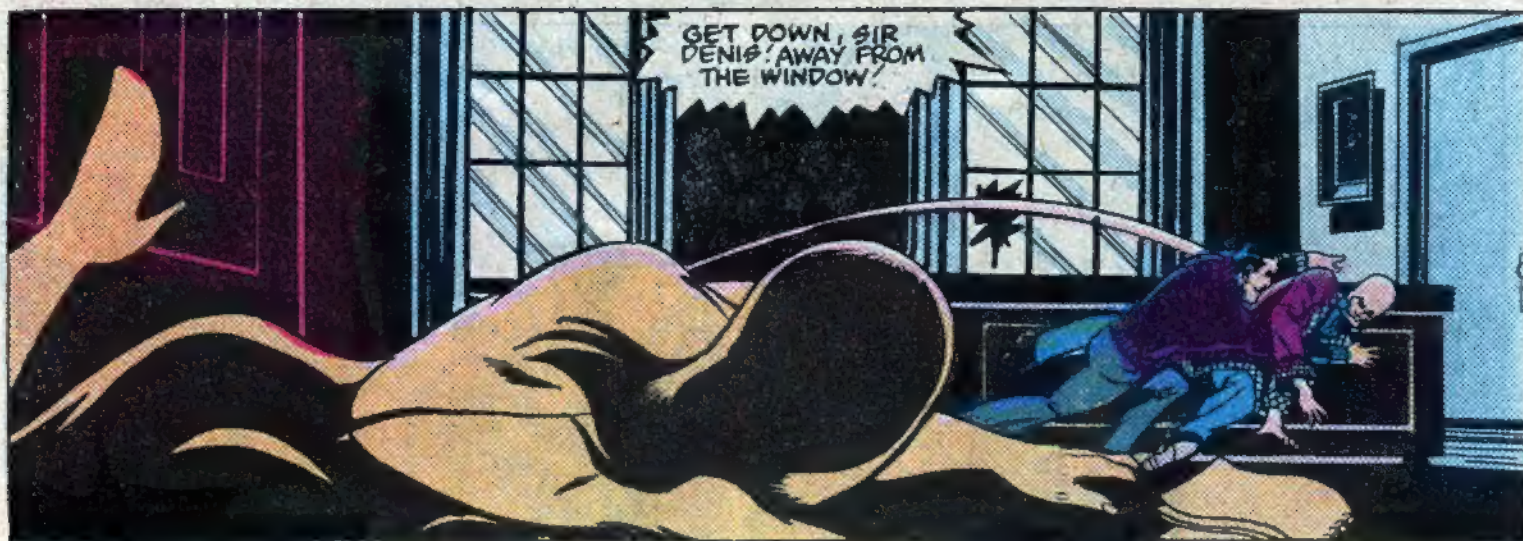
AN' I HOPE THAT FINISHES IT, SIR DENIS-- YOU'VE BEEN AT IT FOR THREE HOURS NOW.

IT'S ONLY ABOUT TWO-THIRDS, BLACK JACK. NO MEAN FEAT DREDGING UP THE PRECISE WORDING OF A DOCUMENT COMMITTED TO MEMORY AND DESTROYED DECADES PAST.



IN FACT, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN--

BRAM

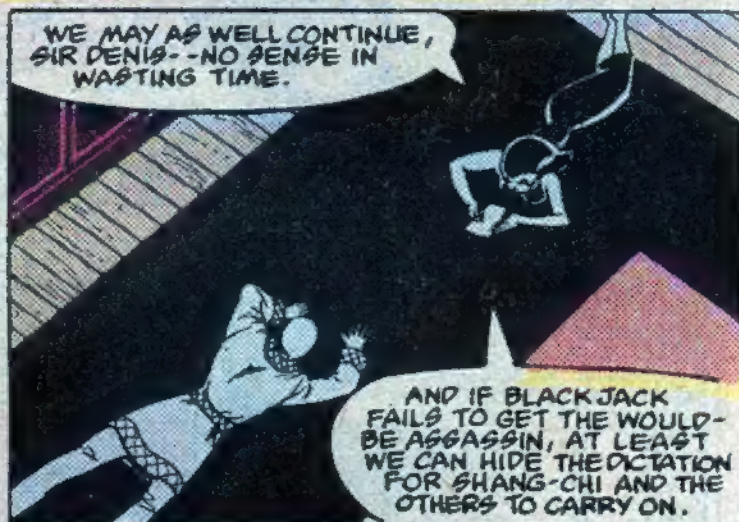


GET DOWN, SIR
DENIS, AWAY FROM
THE WINDOW!



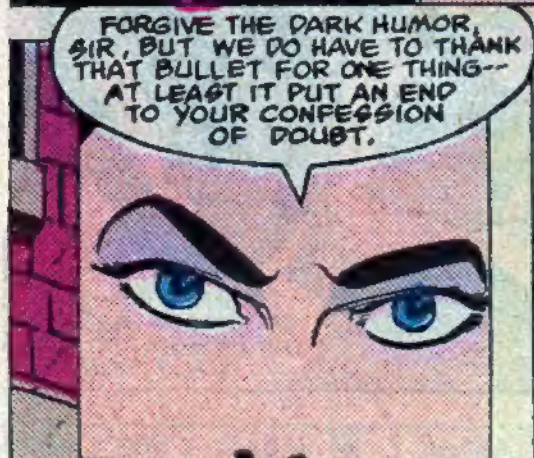
AND STAY DOWN--
BOTH OF YA!

I'M GOIN' OUT
TO NAIL THE
BLOODY
BUGGER!

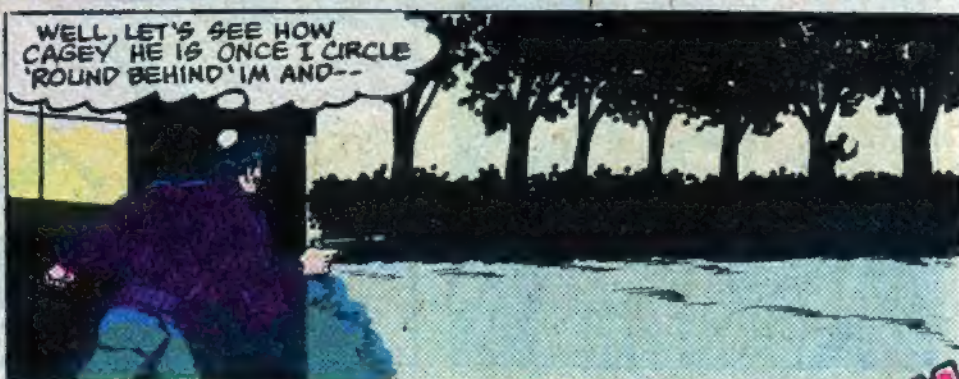


WE MAY AS WELL CONTINUE,
SIR DENIS--NO SENSE IN
WASTING TIME.

AND IF BLACK JACK
FAILS TO GET THE WOULD-
BE ASSASSIN, AT LEAST
WE CAN HIDE THE DICTATION
FOR SHANG-CHI AND THE
OTHERS TO CARRY ON.



FORGIVE THE DARK HUMOR,
SIR, BUT WE DO HAVE TO THANK
THAT BULLET FOR ONE THING--
AT LEAST IT PUT AN END
TO YOUR CONFESSION
OF DOUBT.



WELL, LET'S SEE HOW
CAGEY HE IS ONCE I CIRCLE
'ROUND BEHIND 'IM AND--



THERE HE IS, THE BLEEDIN'
THUG-- BUT A COOL ONE, I'LL
GIVE 'IM THAT. NO RUNNIN' 'IM--
HE'S GONNA FINISH HIS JOB.

AND HE THINKS HE'S
BEIN' CAGEY BY STICKIN'
TO THE TREES...



BRAM
SPAK

NO GOOD-- HE'S
SPOTTED ME.



AND HE'S GOT ME PINNED
DOWN LIKE A BLOODY
BUTTERFLY, NO LESS...



NOTHIN' FOR IT, THEN...

IF I CIRCLE BEHIND HIM--

-- MY BULLET'LL HAVE TO DO IT FOR ME!



WUMP

EH--?



BRAM

AGH-H!

BINGO! LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE SUCKER PUNCH.

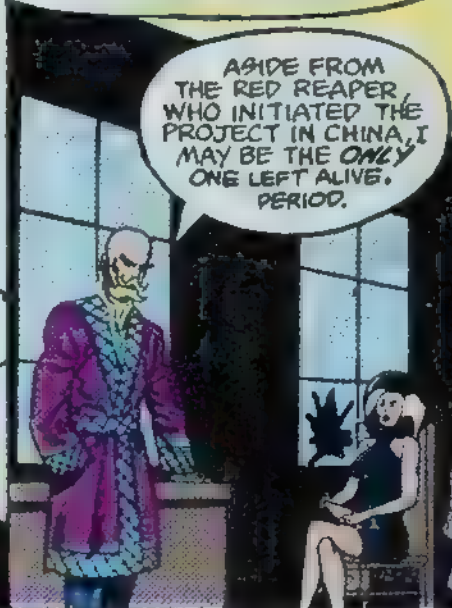
WELL, WELL, A CHINESE COMMUNIST JAMES BOND. THE MYSTERY THICKENS...



BUT TOO BAD WE'RE STILL STEWIN' IN COLD PORRIDGE.

CHICOM, SIR DENIS-- AND LET'S HOPE HE WAS THE LONER TYPE. IN ANY CASE, BEST HURRY WITH THAT DICTATION.

OF ALL THE MI-6 WARHORSES WHO COMMITTED THAT DOSSIER TO MEMORY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE ON OUR SIDE.

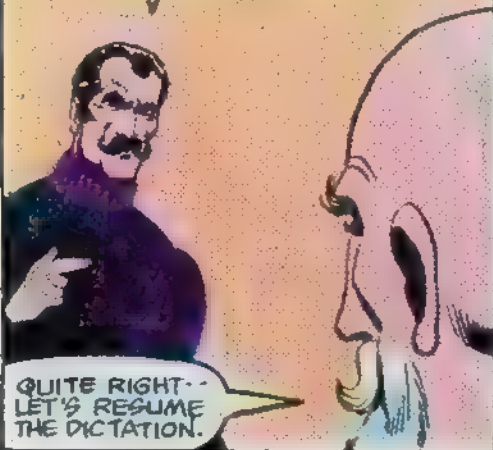


ASIDE FROM THE RED REAPER WHO INITIATED THE PROJECT IN CHINA, I MAY BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE. PERIOD.



YEAH--AND WHATEVER THIS CODE SPELLS, THE CHINESE ARE AFTER IT, MEANIN' WE GOTTA BREAK THE CODE AN' BEAT 'EM TO THE GOODS.

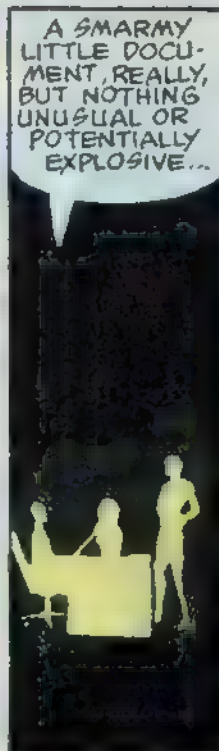
CUZ IF WE DON'T-- IF THEY ICE YOU BEFORE WE CRACK THE CODE-- YOU'LL NEVER EVEN KNOW WHY YOU DIED.



QUITE RIGHT-- LET'S RESUME THE DICTATION.



"NOTHING MORE EFFECTIVE THAN URANIUM. THE END, THANK HEAVEN."



A SMARTY LITTLE DOCUMENT, REALLY, BUT NOTHING UNUSUAL OR POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE...



IT SIMPLY DEALS WITH EXTRAPOLATED FUTURE USES OF URANIUM. AND NOW THAT THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED, IT SEEMS ALMOST HARMLESS...

YES, SIR DENIS-- ON THE SURFACE.

BUT NOW WE MUST DELVE BE- NEATH THE SURFACE FOR THE TRUE MEANING.

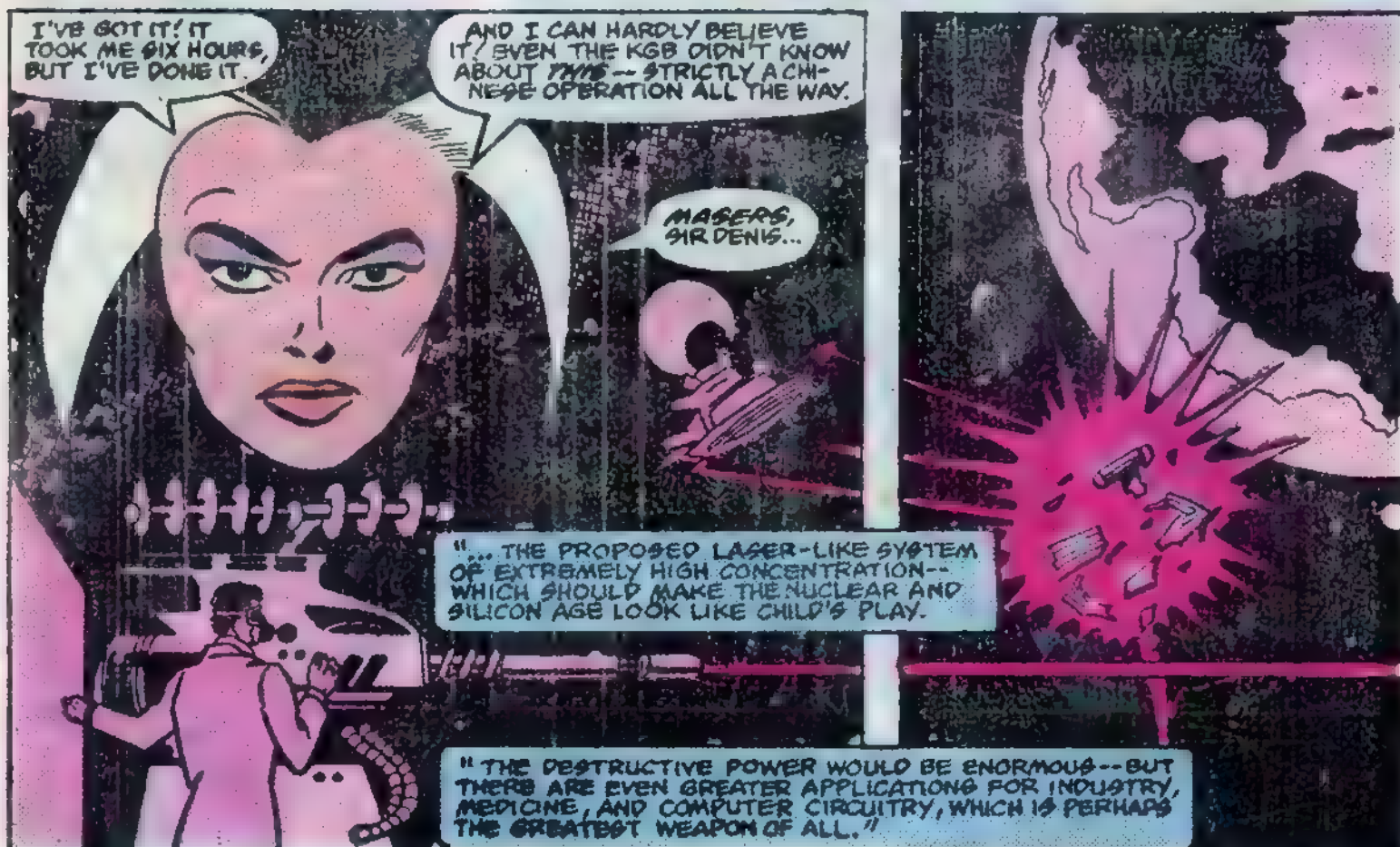


MUCH LATER:

HMM... LET'S SEE... NO, THAT WOULDN'T WORK... NOT QUITE ANYWAY...

ALMOST DAWN, SIR DENIS--AIN'T SHE DONE YET?

PATIENCE, BLACK JACK--IT TOOK ME LONGER TO SIMPLY DICTATE IT.



I'VE GOT IT! IT TOOK ME SIX HOURS, BUT I'VE DONE IT.

AND I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! EVEN THE KGB DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS-- STRICTLY A CHINESE OPERATION ALL THE WAY.

MASERS, SIR DENIS...

"... THE PROPOSED LASER-LIKE SYSTEM OF EXTREMELY HIGH CONCENTRATION-- WHICH SHOULD MAKE THE NUCLEAR AND SILICON AGE LOOK LIKE CHILD'S PLAY.

" THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER WOULD BE ENORMOUS-- BUT THERE ARE EVEN GREATER APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRY, MEDICINE, AND COMPUTER CIRCUITRY, WHICH IS PERHAPS THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL."

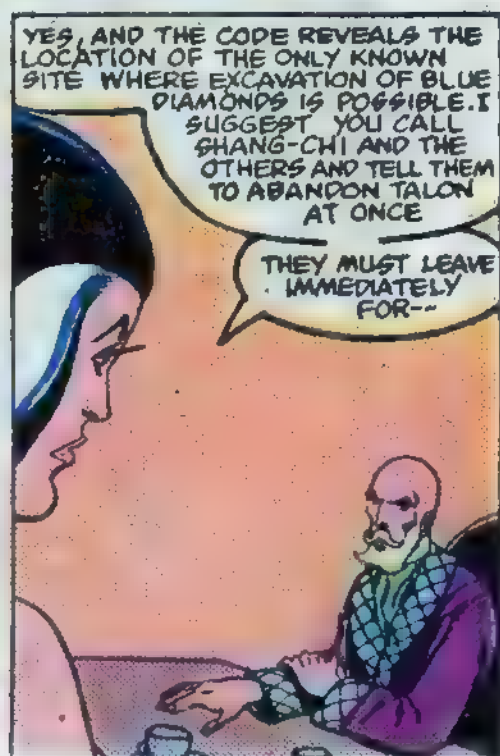


THE TORONTO CONTACT WAS RIGHT-- 'WHITE HEAT' PERTAINED NOT AT ALL TO URANIUM, BUT TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF WHITE LIGHT, WHITE HEAT--TO THE RARE BLUE DIAMONDS...

...THE "MEGA-CRYSTALS" VITAL TO MASER TECHNOLOGY.



THE URANIUM WAS JUST A COVER, SOMETHING PLAUSIBLE IN WHICH TO BURY THE CODE...



YES, AND THE CODE REVEALS THE LOCATION OF THE ONLY KNOWN SITE WHERE EXCAVATION OF BLUE DIAMONDS IS POSSIBLE. I SUGGEST YOU CALL SHANG-CHI AND THE OTHERS AND TELL THEM TO ABANDON TALON AT ONCE

THEY MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR--

"--AFRICA."

"A MAN NAMED GABOA, SURE AND STEADY OF MIEN, LEADS THE CARAVAN OF LANDROVERS COMPRISED OF SEVERAL OTHER AFRICANS, RESTON, LEIKO AND MYSELF.

"IT IS VERY HOT, AND VERY DRY. THERE SHOULD BE MORE ANIMALS-- BUT EVEN HERE, THE HERDS HAVE FALLEN PREY TO THE INEXORABLE THINNING OF ALL LIFE SAVE MAN.

"WE NEAR THE FAR REACHES OF THE VELD; DARK JUNGLE LOOMS BEYOND.

"MAGERS"-- NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE THINGS.

THEY'RE SYSTEMS OF LIGHT ENHANCEMENT SIMILAR TO LASERS, CLIVE, AND THEY REQUIRE THE RARE BLUE DIAMONDS OF THIS EQUATORIAL REGION FOR THE FOCUSING OF THEIR CONCENTRATED BEAMS.

THEY'RE VITAL TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMPUTERS. I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF THEM-- THOUGHT YOU WERE THE AVID SCIENCE FICTION READER.

WHO'S HAD TIME TO READ LATELY?

AH YES, YOUR GREAT ROMANCE WITH THE DARK ANGEL OF LOVE HAS BEEN RATHER MONOPOLIZING YOUR TIME.

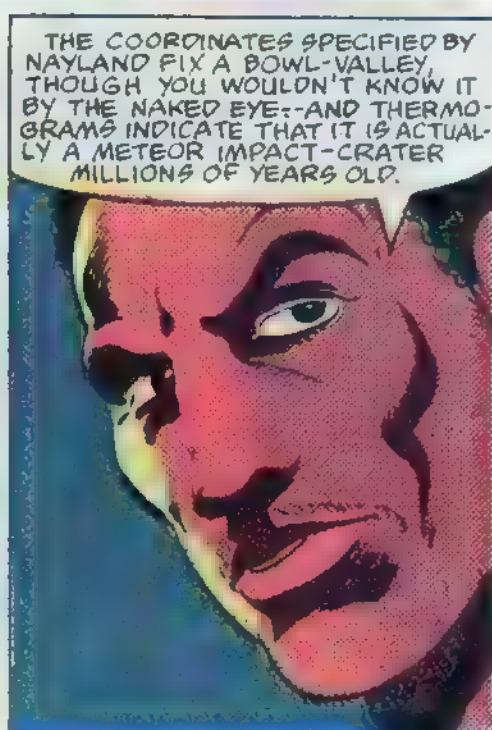
THAT'S ENOUGH, DARLIN'-- I WAS REFERRING TO ALL THE CHASING ABOUT WE'VE BEEN DOING-- AND AFTER BLASTED DIAMONDS, NOT SKIRTS.

"GABOA SIGNALS A HALT AT THE END OF THE JUNGLE.

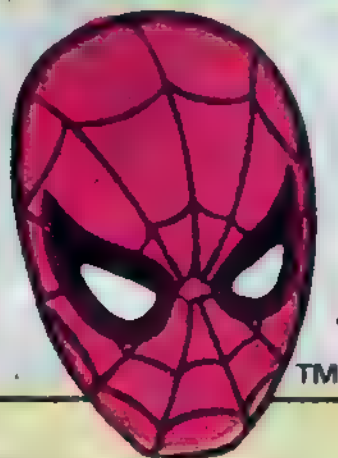
WE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE AND ENTER THE BUSH ON FOOT IN THE MORNING.

IF LUCK IS WITH US, WE'LL REACH THE SPECIFIED SITE BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

"BY THE GLOW OF CAMPFIRE, GABOA SPEAKS OF HIS HISTORY WITH NAYLAND SMITH..."



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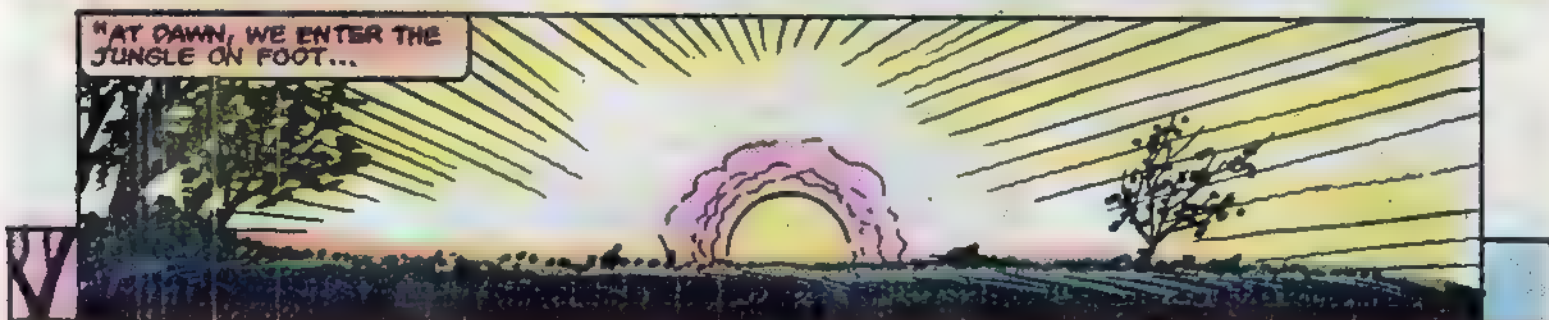
IF WE DON'T GET TO THOSE BLUE-DIAMOND MEGA-CRYSTALS FIRST, THE CHINESE WILL NEVER STOP SENDING ASSASSINATION SQUADS AFTER SMITH.



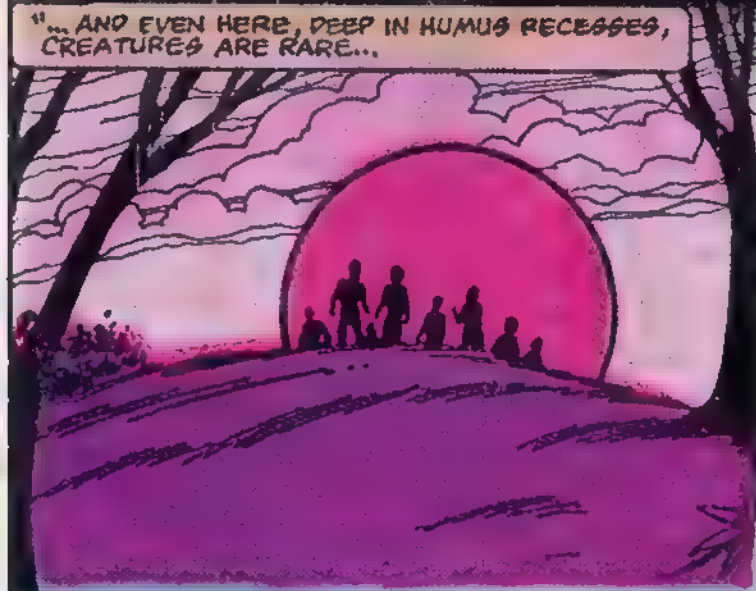
I KNOW LEIKO--AND I AM A WILLING PLAYER IN *THIS* GAME... BUT I CANNOT HELP NOTING ONE THING...



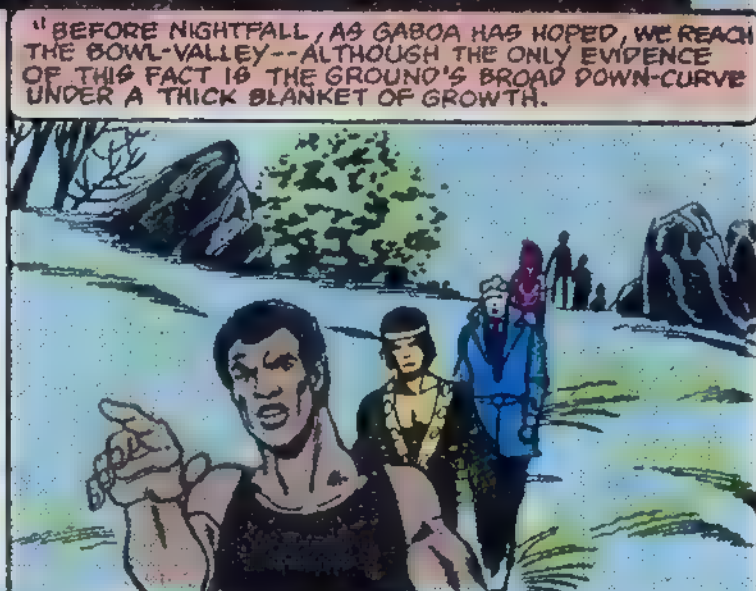
SMITH'S PAST CONTINUALLY HAUNTS HIM... AND BECAUSE WE ARE NOW HIS FRIENDS IN THE PRESENT...THE GHOSTS OF PAST EVIL TEASE AND TAUNT HIM AS WELL.



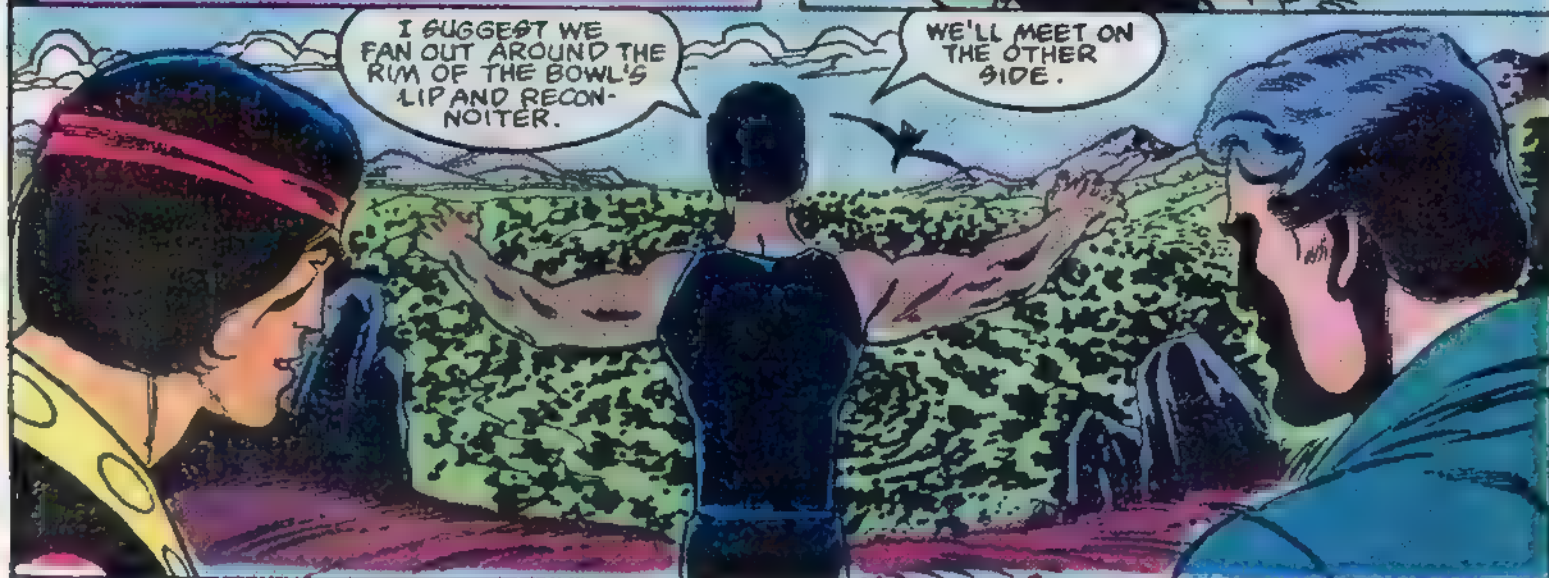
"AT DAWN, WE ENTER THE JUNGLE ON FOOT..."



"...AND EVEN HERE, DEEP IN HUMUS RECESSES, CREATURES ARE RARE..."



"BEFORE NIGHTFALL, AS GABOA HAS HOPED, WE REACH THE BOWL-VALLEY--ALTHOUGH THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF THIS FACT IS THE GROUND'S BROAD DOWN-CURVE UNDER A THICK BLANKET OF GROWTH."



I SUGGEST WE FAN OUT AROUND THE RIM OF THE BOWL'S LIP AND RECON-NOITER.

WE'LL MEET ON THE OTHER SIDE.

"BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY--

OVER HERE--
THE JUNGLE IS
GONE.

"EVEN AS WE RUSH TO THE AFRICAN'S POSITION,
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH...

"AN ENTIRE WEDGE OF THE BRUSH LEADING DOWN
INTO THE BOWL HAS BEEN DEFOLOATED AND
CLEARED. STILL THERE ARE NO ANIMALS.

"BUT NOW--MAY.

"THEY ARE ALL CHINESE; A CRUDE MINE
ENTRANCE OF THEIR CREATION YAWNS
HALFWAY DOWN THE SLOPE, BETWEEN
BOWL-LIP AND BOTTOM CAMP.

"GABOA HUNKERS
DOWN GRUNTING
HIS DISGUST...

THE BULLDOZERS AND
HEAVY EQUIPMENT HAVE
OBVIOUSLY BEEN AIRLIFTED
IN-- I WONDER HOW MANY OF
OUR LOCAL OFFICIALS THE
CHINESE HAD TO
BRIBE.

HMP--THE ASSASSINS
FROM TORONTO ARE DOWN
THERE TOO...

GUESS WE SCARED
THEM RIGHT BACK TO
PAPA.

NOT IF THEY SIMPLY FELT
THEY'D ACCOMPLISHED
THEIR MISSION--WASTING
TALON'S CONTACT, WITH-
OUT REALIZING HE'D SPT
OUT THE CODE PART BE-
FORE THE POISON DID
HIM IN.

AT ANY RATE, WHAT DO
WE DO NOW?

WELL, YOU BOTH
UNDERSTAND, CHINESE,
RIGHT?

YES.

COMIC BOOK SALE!

LIST EXPIRES MAY 10, 1982
(After May 10 1982, call toll free 1-800-525-6509 for a free catalog).

- PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ALL ORDERS
- ALL COMICS GUARANTEED TO BE IN VERY GOOD CONDITION (for higher or lower condition comics call or write for free catalog)
- ALL PRICES LISTED ARE PER ISSUE.
- SEND US FUNDS ONLY - NO CANADIAN PLEASE.
- MINIMUM ORDER IS \$7.50 NOT INCLUDING POSTAGE (orders below min. returned unfilled - \$1 charged)
- POSTAGE AND HANDLING PER ORDER IS \$2.00
- OPTIONAL MAILING INSURANCE IS 50¢ per order insurance unavailable on Canadian & foreign orders
- PLEASE LIST ALTERNATE CHOICES (we cannot guarantee all books to be in stock for the duration of this list) THANKS
- ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE without notice
- WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ORDER

JUST ARRIVED!
480,000 more comics!
Now over 1,000,000 in stock! Shop with America's largest comic dealer for greatest selection at lowest prices.

Amazing Adv. (1970)
1-5-8, 12-18 \$2.50
2-4, 9, 10 1.75
11 Beast 3.50
19-26 75¢
27-39 Russell 1.00

Am. Adv. (1978)
1 X-Men \$1.25
2-14 X-Men 75¢

Avengers
17-22 50¢
23-30 4.00
31-52, 54-56 59-65 3.00
53 Vision 15.00
54 X-Men 58 12.50
56-67 Smith 4.50
68-70 72-82, 94-97 3.50
71-83, 92-97 3.50
84 Adams 29.00
94-96 Adams 9.00
98-99 Smith 6.00
100 Smith 15.00
101-106, 108-109 2.75
107 Starlin 4.50
110-111 X-Men 6.00
112-120 164-166 2.75
121-140 2.50
141-163 2.25
167-180 1.50
181-181 Byrne 2.25
182-200 1.00
201-up 3.00
Annals 6.00
7 Starlin 5.00
8-10 1.50

Ballistic Detective
1-23 \$1.25
2-23 1.00
3-23 1.00

Black Goliath
1 \$1.25
2 1.00

SUPER DISCOUNTS!
You must list Alternate choices equal to your order to qualify
\$15-25...1.00
25-50...2.00
50-100...5.00
100-400...15%
400-up...20%

Black Panther
1-15 \$1.25
16-25 1.00
26-35 1.00
36-45 1.00
46-55 1.00
56-65 1.00
66-75 1.00
76-85 1.00
86-95 1.00
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216-225 1.00
226-235 1.00
236-245 1.00
246-255 1.00
Annals 3.4

Captain America
100 \$11.00
101-109 0.00
102-108 112 4.00
100, 111 113 4.00
114-116 118-130 2.50
117 Falcon 4.50
131-142 144-149 2.50
143-150 2.50
151-171 193-200 1.75
172-175 X-Men 4.00
176-192 194-199 1.25
193-205 247-265 1.00
206-246 256-up 1.00

Captain Marvel
189 \$9.00
170-183 1.00
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11-15 Byrne 2.25
16-20 1.00
21-25 1.00
26-30 3.75
31-35 3.75
36-40 3.75
41-45 3.75
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116-120 3.75
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126-130 3.75
131-135 3.75
136-140 3.75
141-145 3.75
146-150 3.75
151-155 3.7

"LEAVING THE OTHERS BEHIND, LEIKO AND I DESCEND THROUGH THE THICKNESS BORDERING THE CLEARED WEDGE."



"REACHING THE CAMP, WE SHIFT TO THE COVER OF A BULLDOZER'S BULK-- AND LISTEN TO AN ANCIENT CHINESE WHO MAY BE THE ONE SMITH CALLS 'RED REAPER'..."



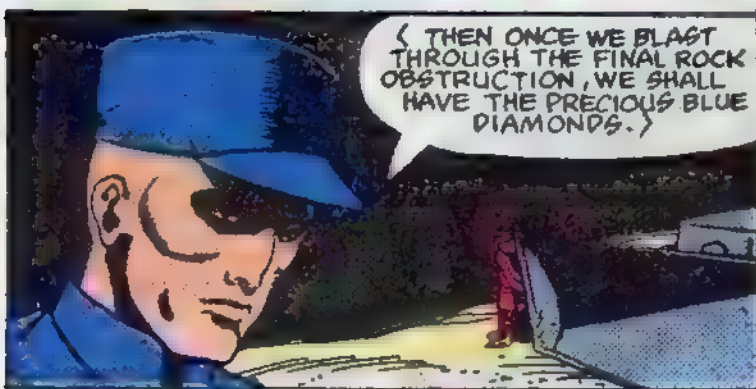
(ARE WE READY FOR BLASTING?)

(THE EXPLOSIVES ARE BEING WIRED EVEN NOW.)



(EXCELLENT.)

(THEN ONCE WE BLAST THROUGH THE FINAL ROCK OBSTRUCTION, WE SHALL HAVE THE PRECIOUS BLUE DIAMONDS.)



WE MUST STOP THE DETONATION, LEIKO-- ONCE THEY HAVE THE DIAMONDS, IT IS OVER.
BUT HOW--? TOO MANY TO ATTACK...



I HAVE AN IDEA-- STAY HERE.



"I SLIP INTO THE JUNGLE..."

"... AND AFTER AN HOUR'S SILENT SEARCH..."

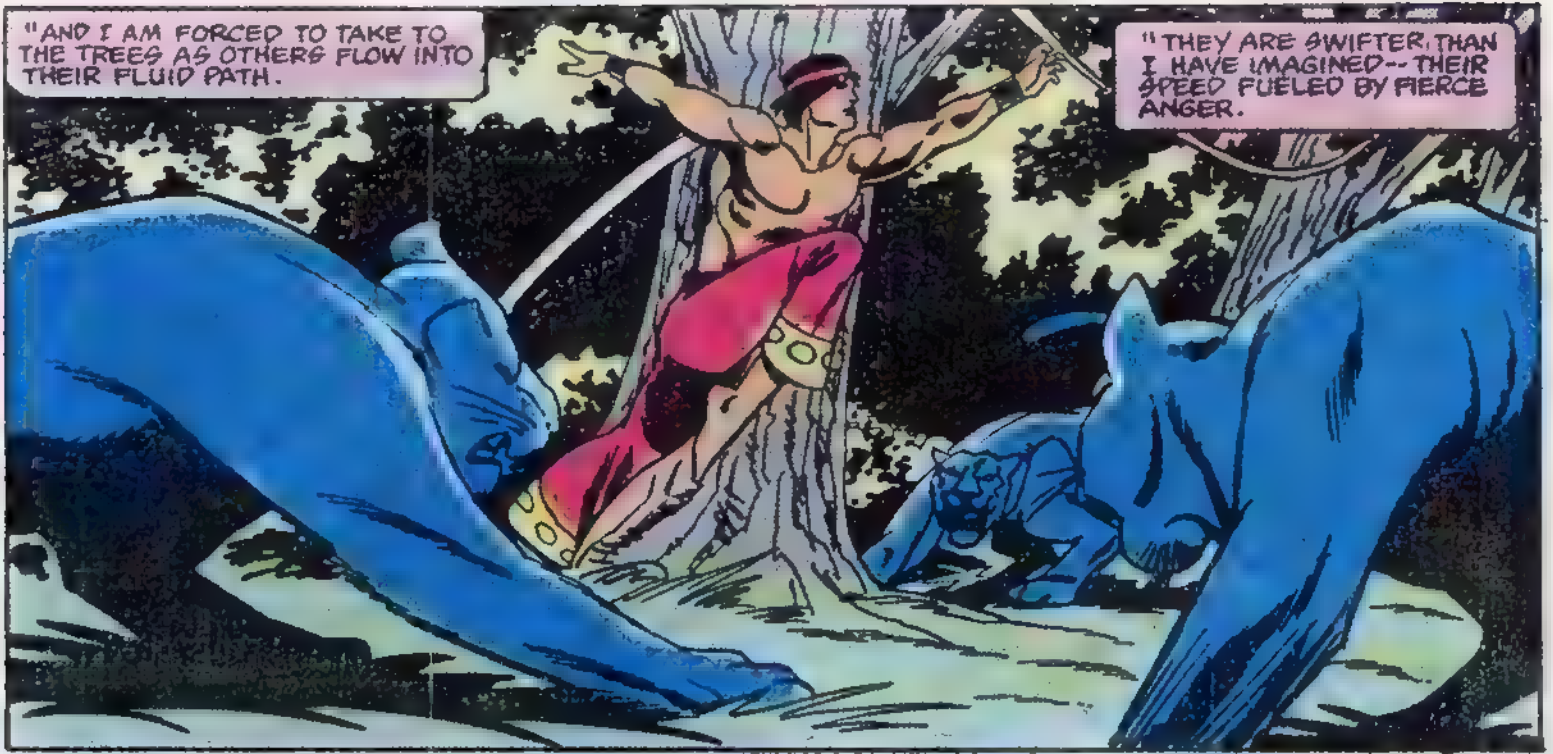


"FINALLY-- ANIMALS!"



"AND I AM FORCED TO TAKE TO THE TREES AS OTHERS FLOW INTO THEIR FLUID PATH."

"THEY ARE SWIFTER THAN I HAVE IMAGINED-- THEIR SPEED FUELED BY FIERCE ANGER."

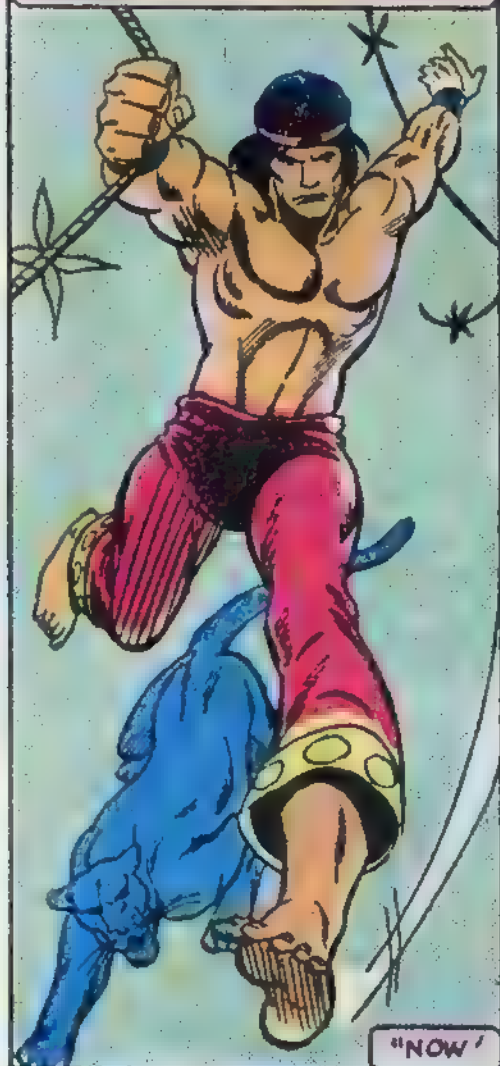


"WHEN I AM FORCED TO AGAIN TOUCH GROUND, I WILL HAVE TO RUN AS IF WITH WINGS..."

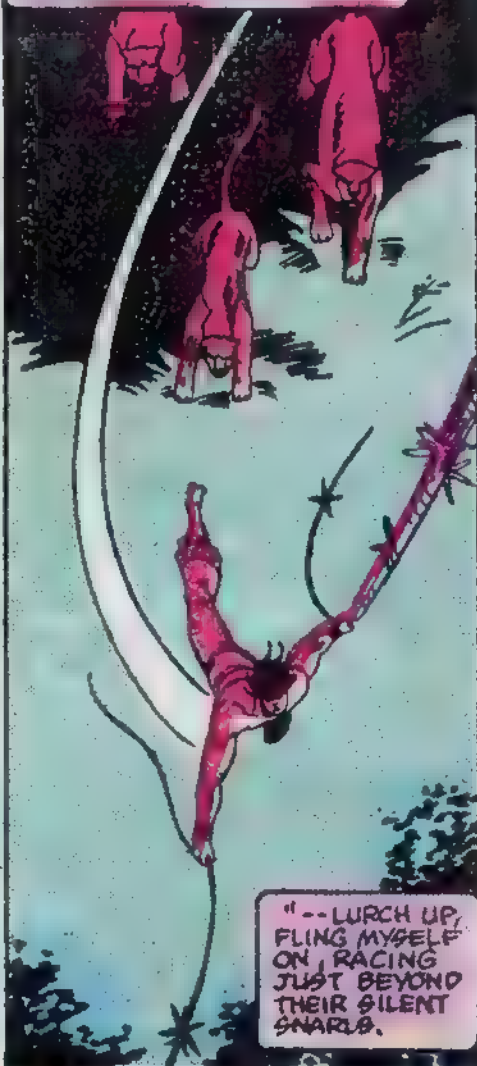
"I GLIMPSE THE CLEARED WEDGE AHEAD..."

"THE GROUND IS UNEVEN--I STUMBLE--"

"THERE--THE LIP OF THE BOWL-VALLEY, AND THE CAMP BELOW--NO STOPPING NOW!"



"NOW"



"--LURCH UP, FLING MYSELF ON, RACING JUST BEYOND THEIR SILENT SNARLS."



"I MUST BLINDLY TRUST MY WEIGHT TO THE FIRST VINE I CAN GRASP-- AND HOPE IT IS NOT ROTTEN OR FRAYED..."

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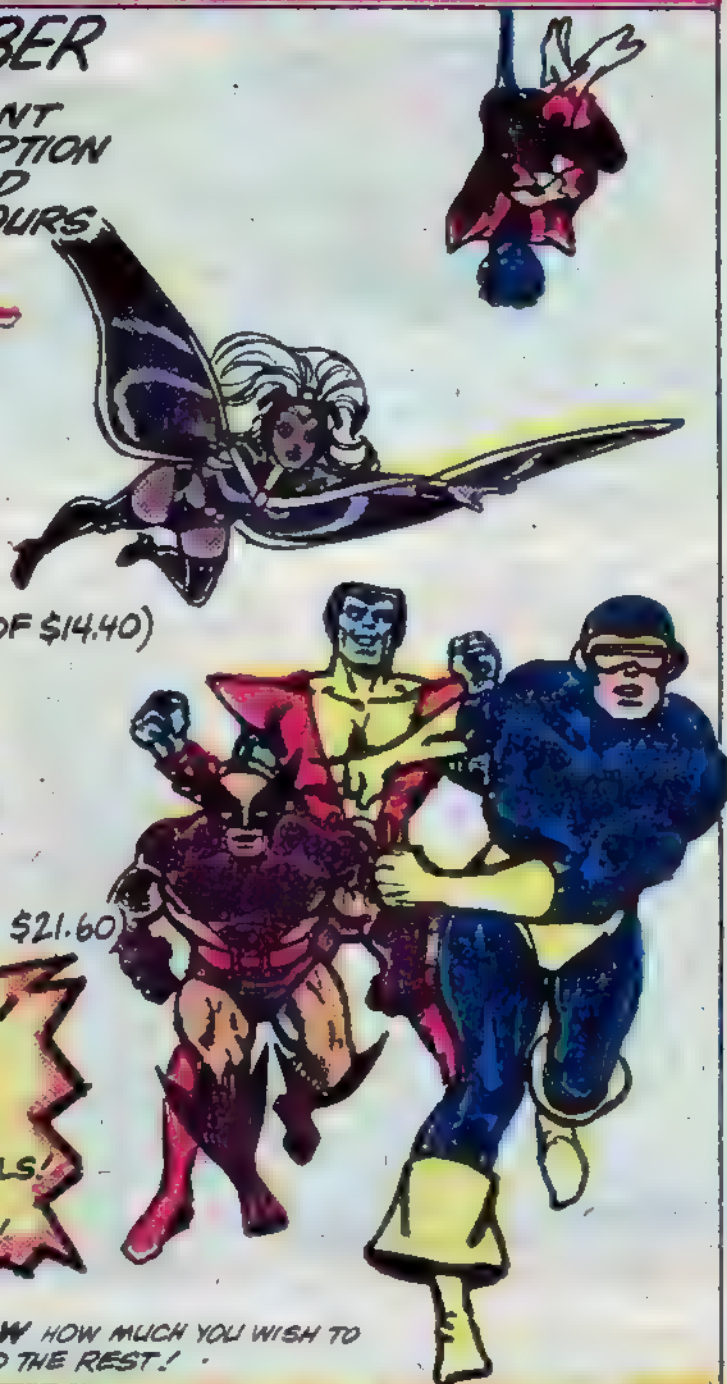
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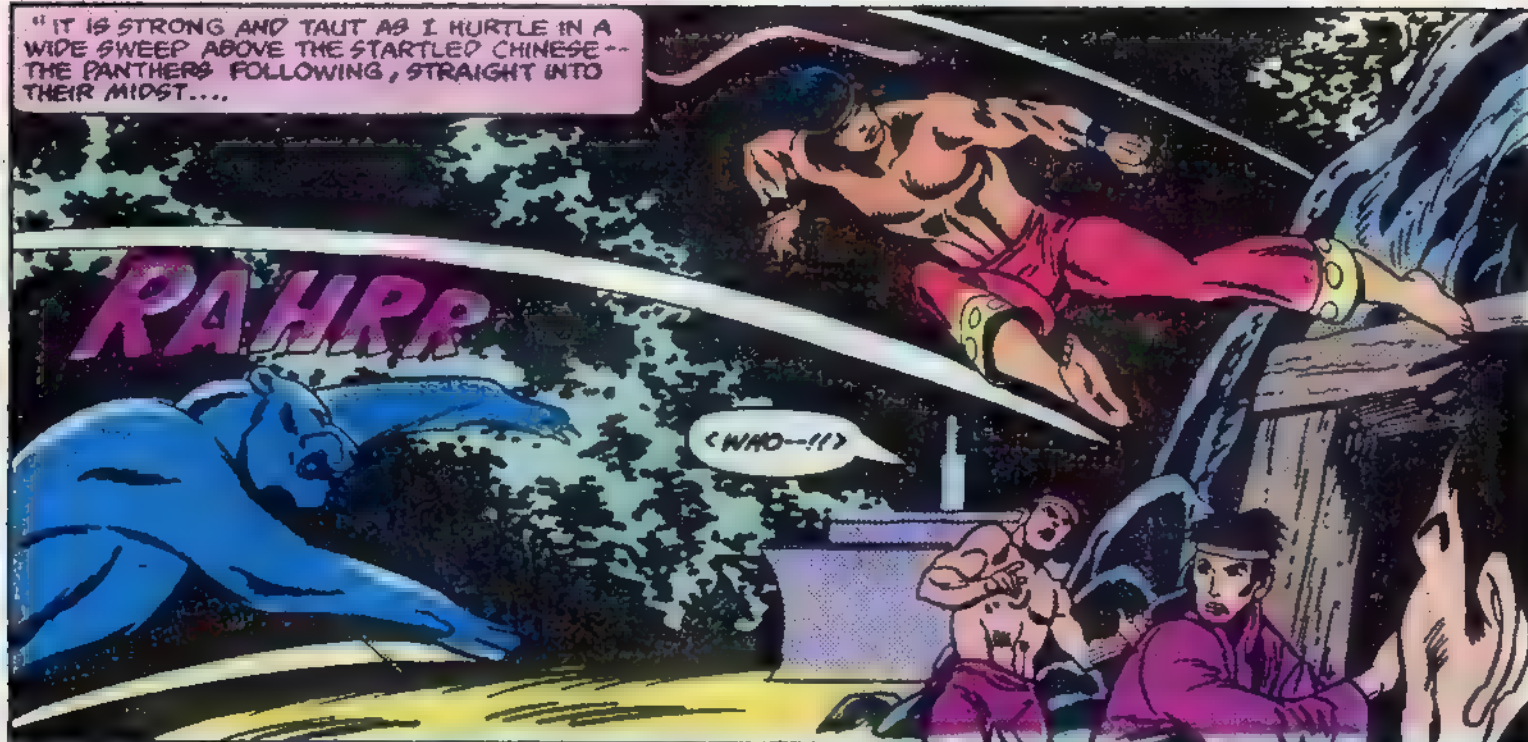
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"IT IS STRONG AND TAUT AS I HURTLE IN A WIDE SWEEP ABOVE THE STARTLED CHINESE-- THE PANTHERS FOLLOWING, STRAIGHT INTO THEIR MIDST...."



"THE MEN, BESET BY THE TERRIFYING NOVELTY OF BEASTS SAVAGE AND WILD, CAN DO NOTHING BUT SCATTER IN PANIC."

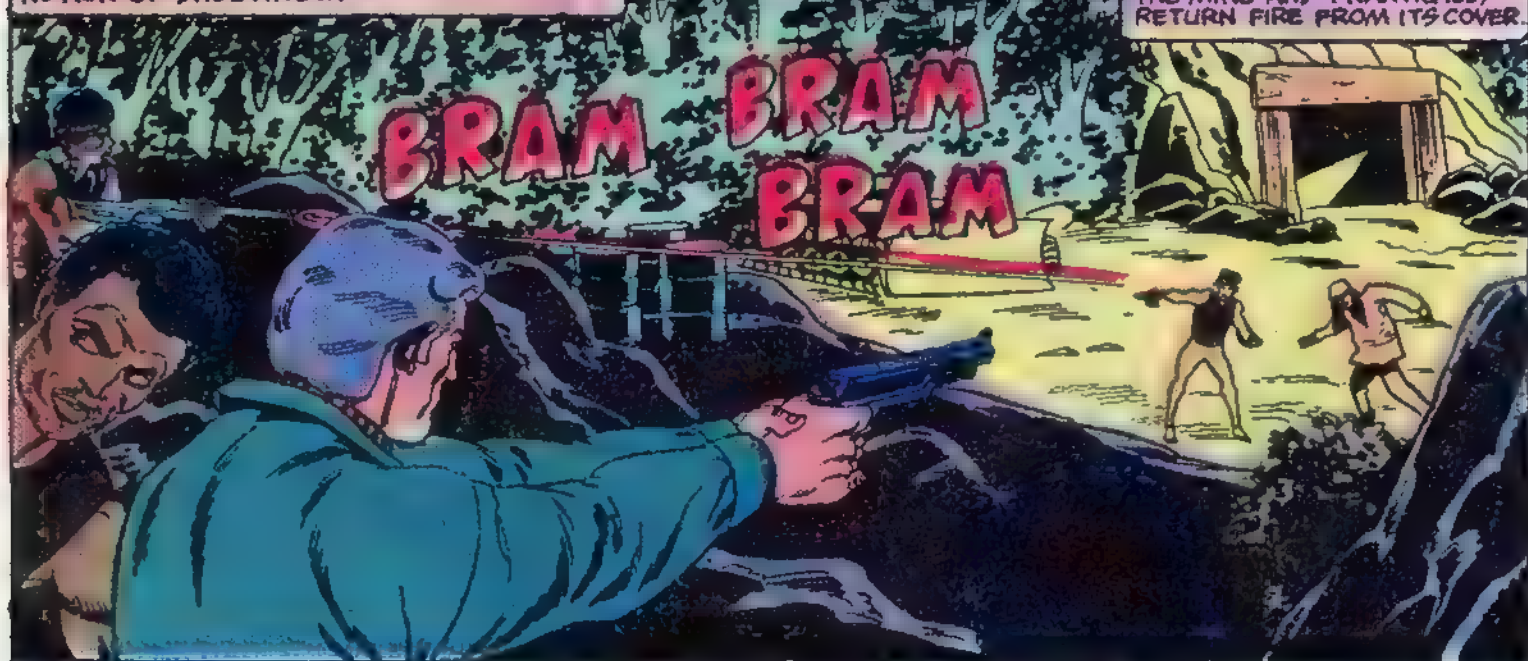


<FLEE--UP TO THE MINE ENTRANCE! WE CAN SHOOT THEM IN SAFETY FROM THERE!>



"BUT DIRECTLY ABOVE THE MINE ENTRANCE, REGTON AND GABOA ALSO SEIZE UPON THE NOTION OF SHOOTING..."

"SOME OF THE CHINESE ARE HIT AND FALL--OTHERS REACH THE MINE AND FRANTICALLY RETURN FIRE FROM ITS COVER."



"IN THE CAMP, HOWEVER, THREE OF THE CHINESE DO NOT PANIC.



"INSTEAD, WITH WHIRLING SHURI-KENS, THEY CALMLY SLAY THE BEASTS--PROVING THEMSELVES TRUE MEN.



"THEN THEY TURN ON ME--THE THREE REMAINING ASSASSINS FROM THE ORIGINAL SEVEN.



YOU AGAIN--THE ONE THEY CALL SHANG-CHI.

WE SHOULD HAVE SLAIN YOU IN TORONTO--TO PREVENT ALL THIS.

YOU TRIED SEVERAL TIMES, AND FAILED IN EACH TRY.



"THE EXPLOSIVES DETONATOR BY THEIR FEET..."

YES, SHANG-CHI--WHICH IS WHY, THIS TIME, WE CANNOT FAIL--

UHN!



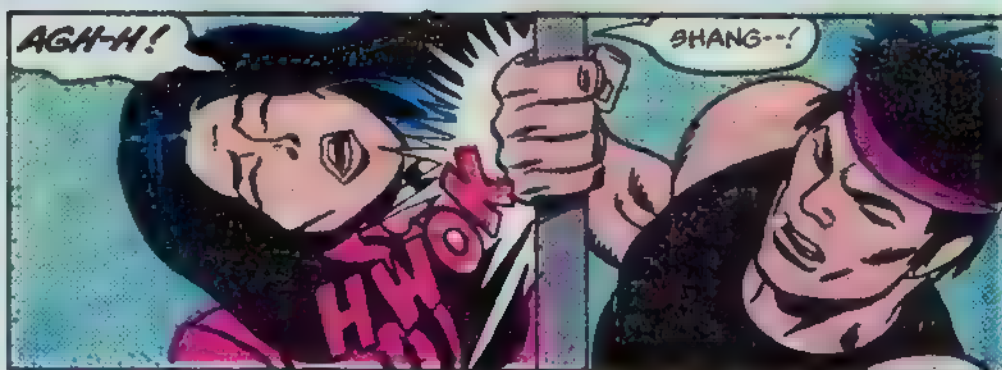
THE DETONATOR, LEIKO! RIP OUT THE WIRE.

YES, SHANG, I'M ALREADY--

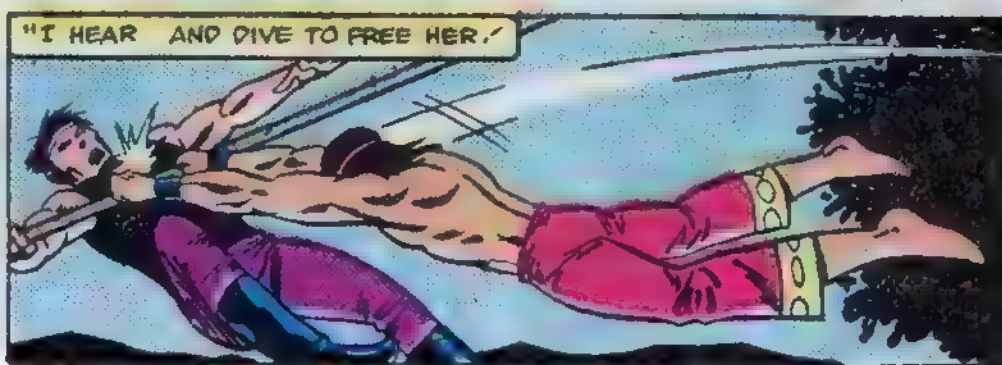


AGH-H!

SHANG--!



"I HEAR AND DIVE TO FREE HER."

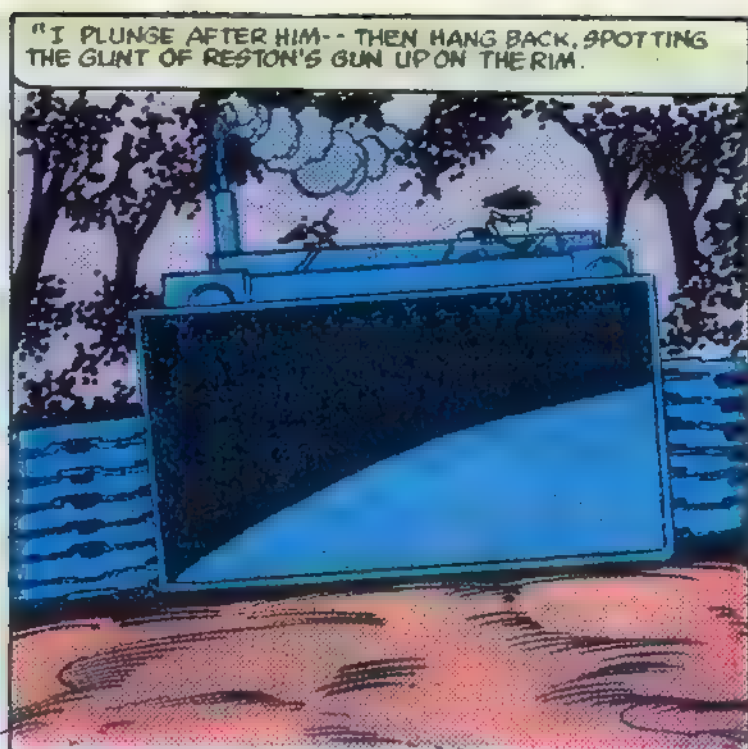




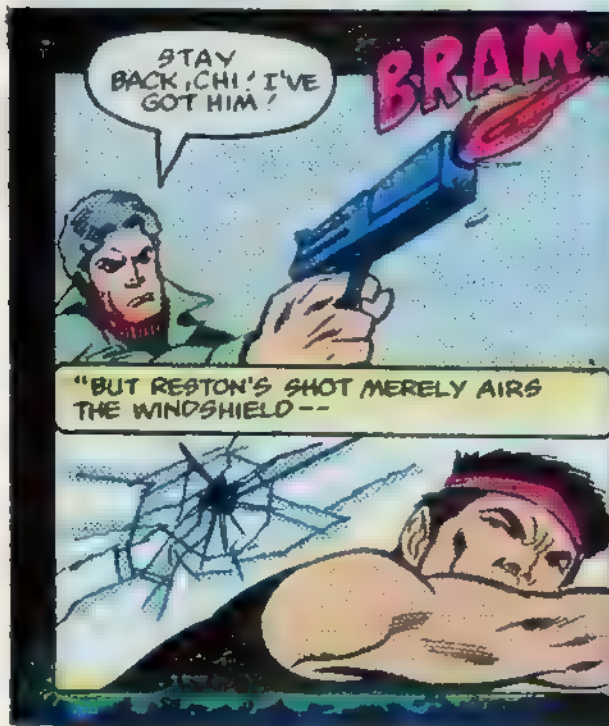
OKAY, SHANG-- I CAN HANDLE HIM NOW!



YOU GO AFTER THE THIRD ONE / HE'S TRYING TO USE THE BULLDOZER TO REACH THE MINE!

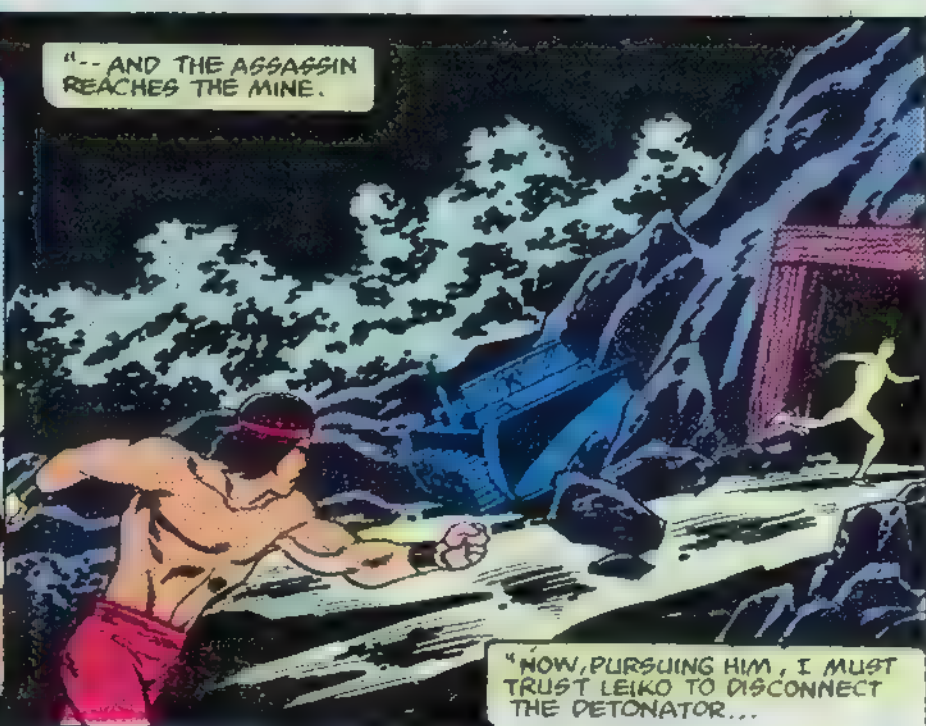


"I PLUNGE AFTER HIM-- THEN HANG BACK, SPOTTING THE GLINT OF RESTON'S GUN UP ON THE RIM.



STAY BACK, CHI, I'VE GOT HIM!

"BUT RESTON'S SHOT MERELY AIRS THE WINDSHIELD--"

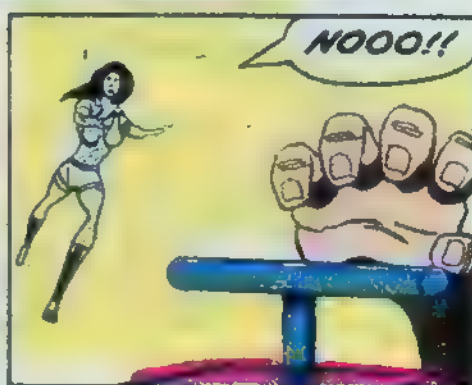


"-- AND THE ASSASSIN REACHES THE MINE.

"NOW, PURSUING HIM, I MUST TRUST LEIKO TO DISCONNECT THE DETONATOR..."



NO! I THOUGHT HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS!



NOOO!!



"YES, SHE MUST HAVE SUCCEEDED."

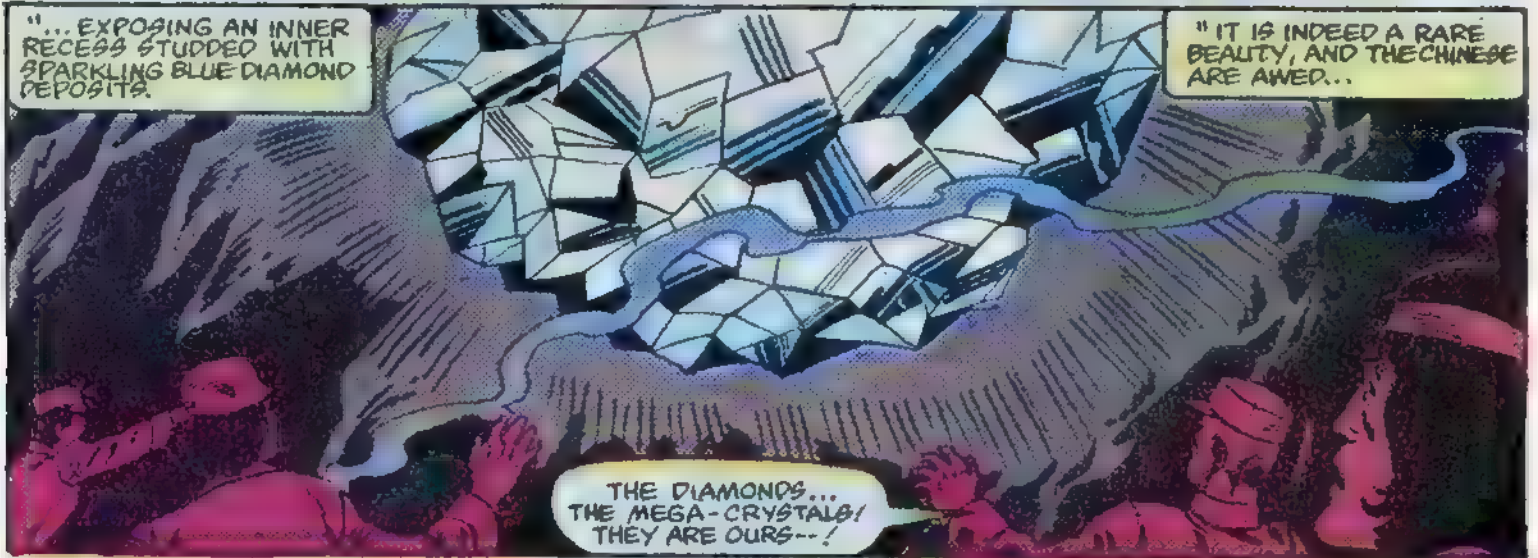


"... FOR THERE IS NO EXPLOSION..."



BAOUMMM

"I WAS WRONG--AND THE OBSTRUCTION OF WHICH RED REAPER SPOKE NOW COLLAPSES IN AN OUTWARD SHOWER OF ROCK AND DUST..."



"...EXPOSING AN INNER RECESS STUDDED WITH SPARKLING BLUE DIAMOND DEPOSITS."

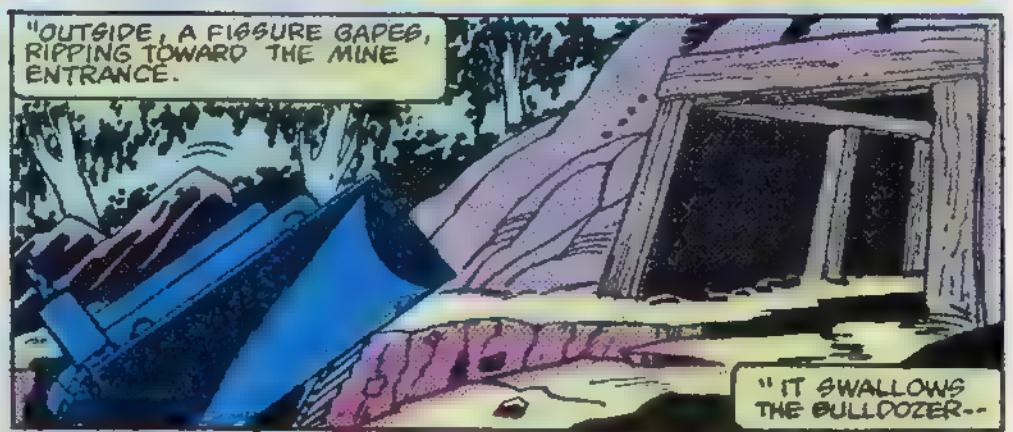
"IT IS INDEED A RARE BEAUTY, AND THE CHINESE ARE AWED..."

THE DIAMONDS...
THE MEGA-CRYSTALS!
THEY ARE OURS--!



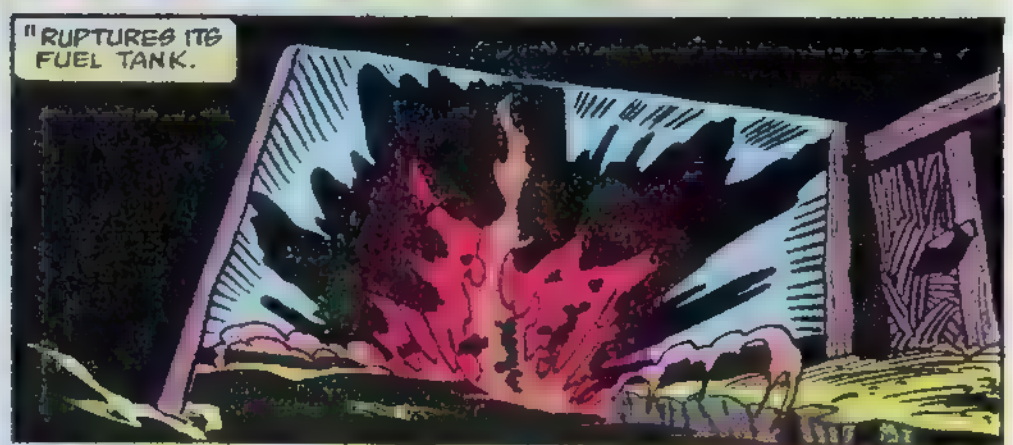
"BUT NOW A NEW RUMBLING ENSUES, JARRING THE MINE'S CEILING, WALLS AND FLOOR."

(LISTEN TO ME.
THERE MUST BE A FAULT
HERE--DISTURBED BY THE
EXPLOSION--AN
EARTHQUAKE?)

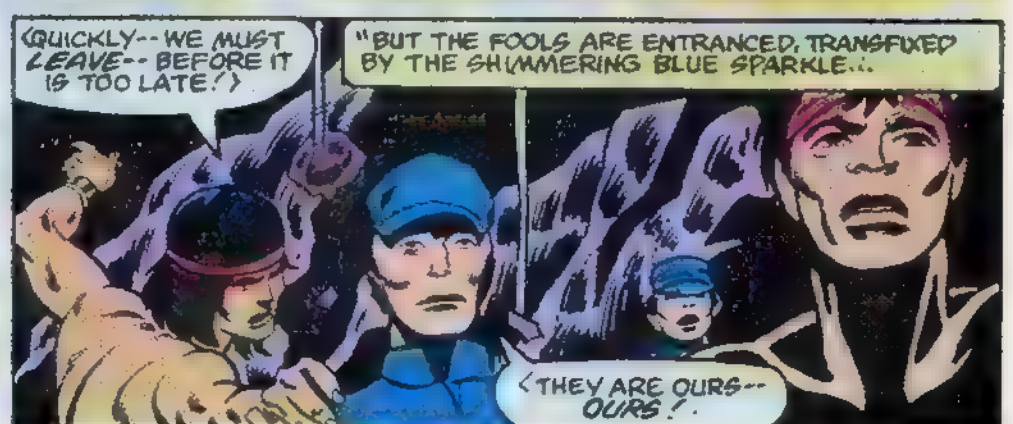


"OUTSIDE, A FISSURE GAPES, RIPPING TOWARD THE MINE ENTRANCE."

"IT SWALLOWS THE BULLDOZER--"



"RUPTURES ITS FUEL TANK."



(QUICKLY--WE MUST LEAVE--BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!)

"BUT THE FOOLS ARE ENTRANCED, TRANSFIXED BY THE SHIMMERING BLUE SPARKLE..."

THEY ARE OURS--
OURS!..

(THERE IS ENOUGH HERE
TO MEET OUR NEEDS
FOR DECADES--PERHAPS
CENTURIES!)

"VERY WELL, LET THEM
DIE WITH THEIR TREASURE."

"BUT I STILL HOLD
GREATEST VALUE ON
MY LIFE."

HOLD, SHANG-CHI! WE YET
HAVE FINAL BUSINESS TO
CONCLUDE--AS ORDERED
BY RED REAPER!

(DESTROY HIM! HE
MUST NOT ESCAPE WITH
KNOWLEDGE OF THE
CRYSTALS!)

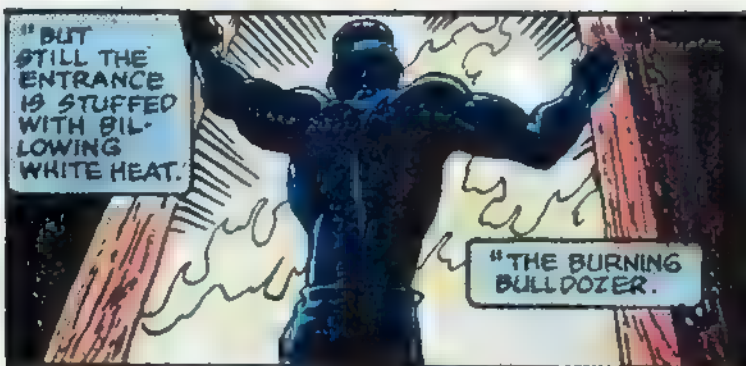
"THE RISEN ASSASSIN IS TOO
STUPID TO KNOW WHEN HE IS DONE--
AND SO I MUST IMPRESS THE
TRUTH ON HIM BRUTALLY, AND SWIFT-
LY, REMOVING HIM FROM MY PATH..."

"...SO THAT I MAY LEAP CLEAR--
EVEN AS THE GROUND DISAPPEARS
BENEATH ME..."

"...DEVOURING BOTH THE ASSASSIN
AND RED REAPER HIMSELF--"

SHUMP

"--HE WHO WILL
NOW REAP HIS
FINAL REWARDS
IN THE DARK
AND BOTTOM-
LESS PIT OF
THE NETHER-
WORLD."



"BUT STILL THE ENTRANCE IS STUFFED WITH BILLOWING WHITE HEAT."

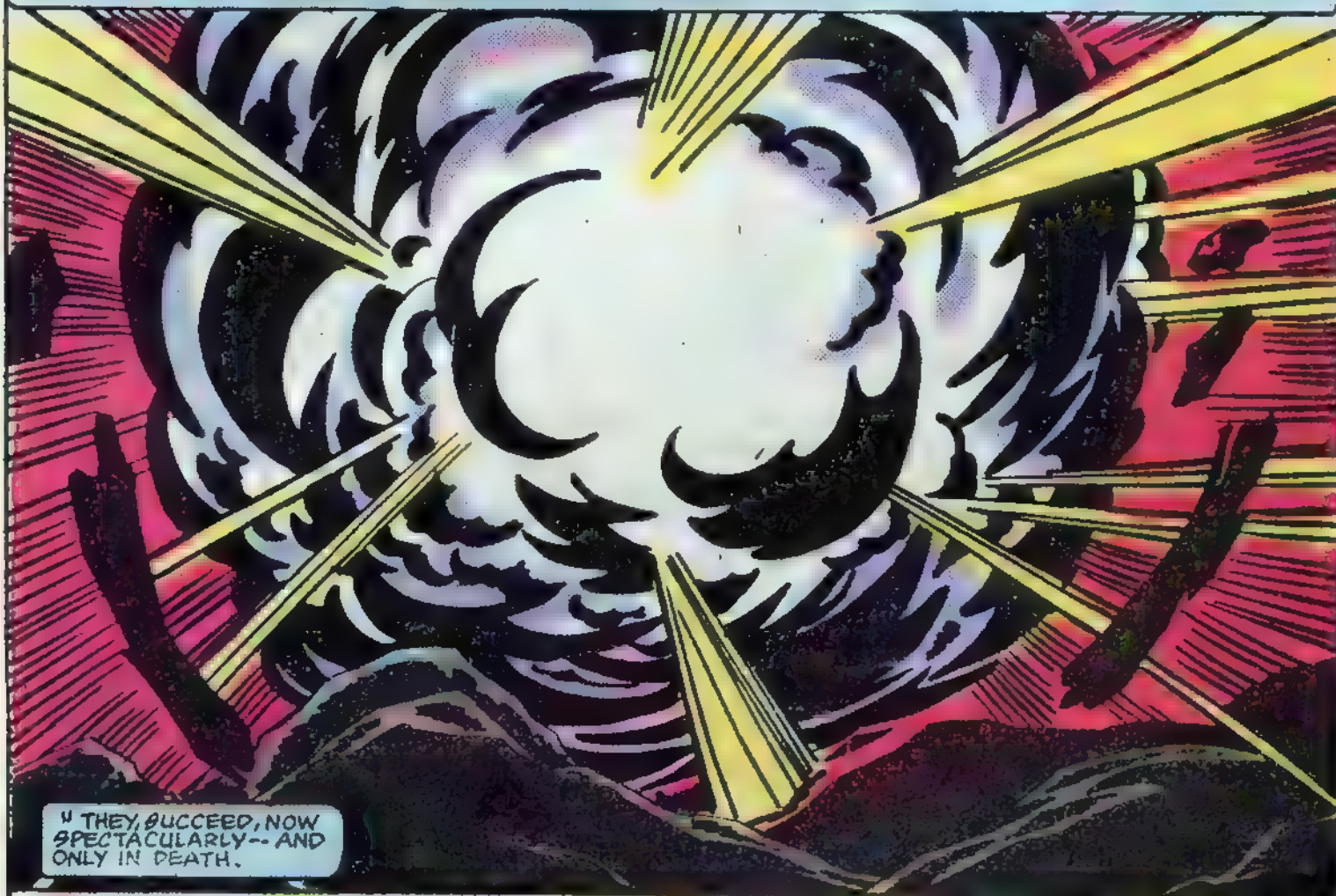
"THE BURNING BULLDOZER."



"THERE IS NO CHOICE ..."

"I MUST PASS THROUGH THE FIRE."

"ROLLING AND TUMBLING DOWN THE SLOPE, I CATCH MADLY FLASHING GLIMPSSES OF SKY, JUNGLE, GROUND, AND THE MINE BEHIND ME--FOLDING IN FINAL COLLAPSE, FEEDING UPON ITSELF AND UPON THE GREED OF THOSE WHO HAVE KILLED IN HOPES OF PENETRATING ITS SECRETS."



"THEY SUCCEED, NOW SPECTACULARLY-- AND ONLY IN DEATH."

"RESTON, GABOA, AND THE OTHER AFRICANS SCRAMBLE FOR SAFETY AS THIS SIDE OF THE BOWL-VALLEY SELTS IN AVALANCHE, BURYING THE FORMER MINE, FILLING THE FISSURE."



"THE QUAKE HALTS, AND THE SUD- DEN SILENCE IS DEAPENING."



"SHANG! IT'S OVER! AND YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!"

"YES, IT IS OVER! THE EARTH HAS RECLAIMED ITS BRIGHT GIFT FROM THE SKY."



"THIS WON'T STOP MAGER RESEARCH-- THEY'LL LOOK FOR MEGA-CRYSTALS ELSEWHERE-- BUT AT LEAST IT'S PUT AN END TO THIS GAME OF DECEIT AND DEATH."

BULLPEN BULLETINS

BEING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF MARVEL COMICS...

...is like balancing a watermelon on your nose. It's hard to do, it can hurt a lot, and everyone thinks you're out of your mind for doing it. Sometimes, if it weren't for the honor of it all, I think I'd give it up. Nonetheless, on with the news...

DOZENS FAIL TO BE KILLED!

...or at least to suffer severe pain. Two weeks ago, on December 9, to be exact, just before three P.M., most of the crew was gathered in the Bulpen to cut a cake in honor of Publishing Vice-President Mike Hobson's forty-fifth birthday! Suddenly, without warning, a step-ladder slammed into a window only a few feet away! Glass sprayed everywhere, and started Bulpeners, imagining that it was anything from an artillery attack to the end of the world as we know it, dived for cover. Fortunately, it seems that no one was seriously injured, though our brand-new editorial assistant, Frank Sienkiewicz, who was nearest the window at the time, was battered by flying debris and shaken up. Yes, that name Sienkiewicz (pronounced Sin-keh-vitch) should sound familiar. Lovely Frank is the wife of renowned MOON KNIGHT artist Bill Sienkiewicz! Anyway, after we found out it was a step-ladder that had crashed our party, speculation ran wild! Had the Dine Competition at last perfected their step-ladder-cannon? Or was it the work of a Sinister Foreign Power, trying to undermine American morale by striking at our comics creators? As it turns out, it was just the wind which blew the ladder from the top of a nearby skyscraper-under-construction, and not the work of Nefarious Enemies. Nonetheless, it certainly made our party... different! I think Mike will remember this birthday.

PRESENTING THE FIRST ANNUAL SHOOTER AWARDS!

By now all of you have stopped accidentally dating your checks "1981" and are comfortably under-way with A.D. 1982, but as I write this it's late December 1981. As a matter of fact, I'm on an airplane at the moment, headed home to Pittsburgh, "Someplace Special," PA for the holidays but that's not important. What's important is that I've decided to give some special no-prizes, by my authority as E.I.C., to honor achievements of the past year. Some will be serious, some not so, and all are absolutely arbitrary on my part. The decisions of the judge are final. And now, the awards...

The Award for Quietest Superstar Penciler goes to Brent Anderson, who probably gives quiet lessons to Ninja on the side. Last time Brent said something, Daredevil was heard to say "Pardon me?"

The Award for Fastest Coloring Job goes to Christie Scheele for Avengers #216, "To Avenge the Avengers," colored in "thirty-seven-point-eight-six seconds," according to her because it was terminally late thanks to the scripter (me). Surely, she wouldn't fib about something like that, would she? Nah.



The Award for Most Overnight Lettering Jobs goes to Joe Rosen who came through time after time because he's as dependable as the sunrise and the Hulk's temper. Fortunately for us, Joe's much more mellow and cooperative than the Hulk.

The Award for Worst Engraver's Error goes to Chemical Color for Ka-Zar #12 "Belasco..." in which an entire panel, a color-hold, was dropped out!

The Award for Saving Marvel's Bacon Schedulewise goes to Chemical Color for saving several dozen late issues with last-ditch, blitzkrieg separating and engraving efforts, and doing a darn good job despite the rush.

The Award for Best Singlehanded Complete Cover Overnight goes to Editor Allen Milgrom for Hulk #267, "Wrong End of the Rainbow." He writes, he draws, he inks, he edits — next he'll be selling the comics down on the corner of 56th and Madison.

The Award for Best Cover Copy goes to Jim Salicrup for Fantastic Four #238, "The Lady Is Not For Burning." That's the title, not the cover copy, by the way. You have to check out the prize-winning copy for yourself to believe it.

The Award for Father of the Year, though closely contested, goes to Ron Zalme, who provided every living person within range with cut-out-and-fold-up, do-it-yourself, scale-model, cardboard statuettes, which he designed and created, of his wife, himself and new baby Jessica.

The Award for Curmudgeon of the Year goes to staff curmudgeon (and editor, and genius) Dennis J. O'Neil — even though we all know it's just a front and underneath he's a sweet guy.

The Award for Best Telephone Greeting goes to CRAZY! Magazine editor, Larry Hama, who answers the phone, "CRAZY! What's your excuse?"

The Award for Toughest Editor goes to Louise Jones, who's a rather strong-willed and determined sort, and has a wicked left hook.

The Award for Rookie of the Year goes to newcomer Tom DeFalco. Sure, I know he's been in comics, editing even, since Don Perlin wore knickers, but he's new here...and already a star!

The Award for Miss — oooop! I mean Mister Congeniality goes to Danny Crespi, fearless Production manager and all around nice guy.

The Award for Comeback of the Year goes to Jack Abel, who didn't let a serious stroke stop him. Showing enormous courage and determination, and cheerfully goaded on by his friends, he rehabilitated his paralyzed right hand to the extent that he's inking and drawing again — even better than before. Now, there is a man.

The Nuclear Terrorist Clone Honorable Mention goes to inker Bob Layton, who's a first-class artist and a first-class guy — for a radioactive mutant, that is.

That's all for now, but be warned! I'll probably give additional awards from time to time when the mood strikes me.

THIS TOO, SHALL PASS...

This column, that is. We're out of space, it appears. Before I sign off, though, I want the world to know that I was just kidding about Bob Layton being a radioactive mutant. It was just a joke. Yes, I know it wasn't funny, but, hey, how humorous could you be if you were in my place?

Watermelons are very heavy.

Best.

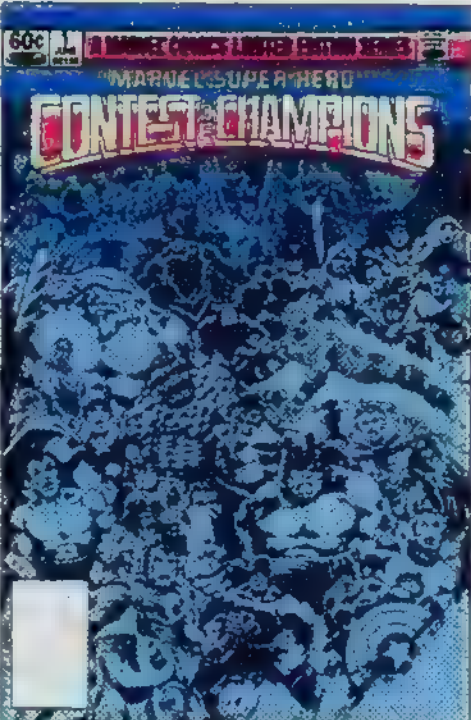
Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

This month's extra-hot items...

GHOST RIDER #88 — Look for some very special fireworks in this mag from now on, as the new creative trio of ROGER STERN, BOB BUDIANSKY, and DAVE SIMONS really goes to town. We think they're gonna be the next team to really set the industry on its ear. See for yourself.

BIZARRE ADVENTURES #31 — A hard look at violence, featuring shocking, thought-provoking material on this controversial subject by FRANK MILLER, JOHN BYRNE, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, LARRY HAMA, MARK GRUENWALD, STEVE BISSETTE, and other such mild-mannered guys.



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #88** — The Thing and the She-Hulk
- ☐ **TEAM AMERICA #2**
- ☐ **SPIDER WOMAN #44**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #16**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #15**
- ☐ **DENNIS THE MENACE #8**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #183** — The Angel Dust saga, part I.
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #1** — puls'n' premiere issue!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #229**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #270**
- ☐ **THOR #320**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #42**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #88**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #20**
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #53**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #272**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #220**
- ☐ **CONAN #135**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #140** — Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #3, by LEE and DITKO
- ☐ **X-MEN #158**
- ☐ **ROM #31**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #82**
- ☐ **MIGHTY MARVEL CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS (MINI-SERIES) #1** — All of Marvel's mightiest compete for the greatest prize of all!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #243**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #118** — Spider-Man and the X-MEN's Professor X!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #159**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #67**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #108**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #80**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #33** — Alternate realities of Iron Man and the Dazzler.
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG-FU #113**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #88**
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #76**
- ☐ **BIZARRE ADVENTURES #31** — A surprising look at violence! (See Hype Box)

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

- ☐ **#2 — ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY** — Adapted from MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S original story, by ROY THOMAS and P. CRAIG RUSSELL.

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"IT IS THE NEW HEAD OF MI-6... MY SISTER, FAH LO SUEE-- WITH TALON."



WELL, LITTLE SPIRIT-- FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

AND YOUR BUSINESS HERE, WITCH? COME FOR SOME MAGIC CRYSTALS?



"SHE IGNORES RESTON."

THE DIAMONDS ARE LOST TO BOTH THE CHINESE AND US.

YOU HAVE FAILED, LITTLE SPIRIT.

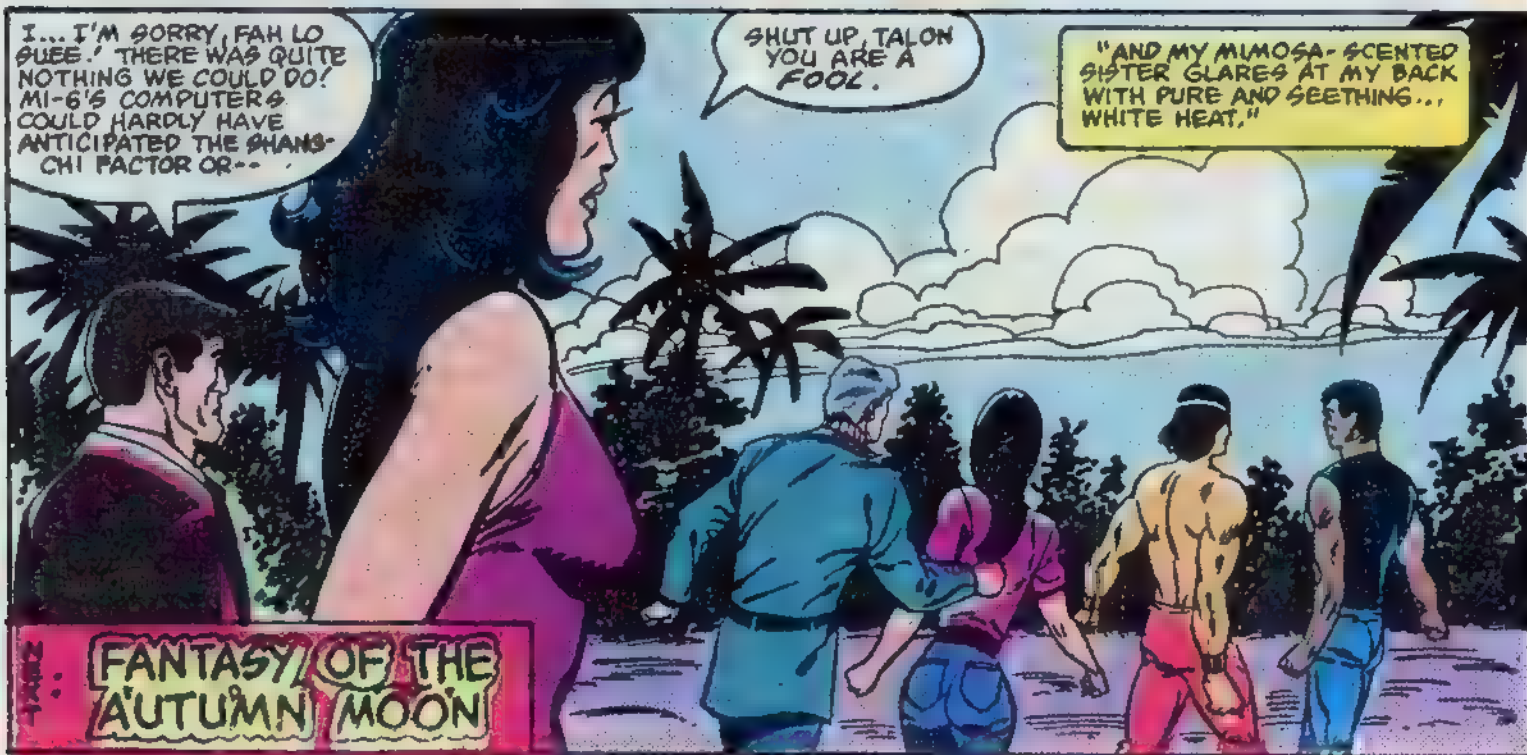
NO, MY SISTER, I HAVE NOT FAILED. NOW THAT THIS SITE IS WORTHLESS TO ALL BUT THE ANIMALS, AT LEAST THE ATTACKS ON SMITH'S LIFE WILL HALT.



AND, AS EVER, MY ONLY GOAL IN THIS GAME WAS LIFE.

YOU HAVE FAILED, NOT I.

I... I'M SORRY, FAH LO SUEE. THERE WAS QUITE NOTHING WE COULD DO! MI-6'S COMPUTERS COULD HARDLY HAVE ANTICIPATED THE SHANG-CHI FACTOR OR--



SHUT UP, TALON YOU ARE A FOOL.

"AND MY MIMOSA-SCENTED SISTER GLARES AT MY BACK WITH PURE AND SEETHING... WHITE HEAT."

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DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug,

This is my fourth letter in an hour since I'm trying to use up my remaining 18¢ stamps before the U.S. Snail plays mini-OPEC again. So I won't go into a long detailed analysis of how you write the best comic on the stands; instead, I'll just tell you how amazed I am at your consistency, how marvelously your stories function on several simultaneous levels, all understated, with sufficient action to satisfy the little kids and slow adults, but all remaining totally coherent and organic with what has gone before to satisfy the rest of us.

Stories seem to flow in long, cyclic patterns in MASTER OF KUNG FU, much like life itself. Miller's trying to do something similar with *Daredevil*, of course, and in time he may match your richness, but for the time being—and as long as you continue to build on such a long established foundation—your work is and will be unmatched. The current pattern seems to be that of Shang-Chi fighting against himself, and it's been developing since #89. At the time I wondered at the anticlimactic ending you gave to the "Warriors of the Golden Dawn" saga. Since then, however, I've realized that it was a prelude to the much longer subtextual story. It had to be anticlimactic because a much greater conflict was initiated when Chi struck his father, the very act which "ended" the saga. Chi's internal conflict has been growing ever since, his repressed guilt only a part of it. Until that moment he still retained a measure of the calm serenity in which he'd been raised, the subconscious self-image as obedient son watched over by omnipotent father carrying him through his new and chaotic life in the West. But he'd never probed that calm, never truly realized it was based on a lie. Even now he has failed to fully face the fact, and keeps trying to regain that serenity. Far from following the Tao through inaction (the Bhagavad Gita's duty, Crowley's will, etc.), through letting things happen without desire, he is becoming ever more deeply encoiled in lust-of-result, in maya, as he attempts to force his inner will on the outer world. Life is chaos, order is death, and by seeking the serenity of his youth he is unconsciously seeking the death of his own ego, to surrender to his father's will by losing his own.

#107 brought this out most forcefully. Fasting to achieve a vision, simultaneously fasting to reject life, he almost succeeded in finding death, and a nightmare vision of it at that. Even when he attained his goal and the four demons came to him, he refused to believe them. They clearly told him his life was unconnected to his father, and that his only alternative to accepting this separateness (and thus also the turmoil of life) was to die. "If the son chooses to live..." Yes, if. And when the child (a child, for innocence; a girl, for the potential of love; an occidental child, for his Western existence in life/chaos rather than the Eastern past of death/order) appears to him, he considers it an interruption of vision, when of course she was the very culmination of it, manifest instead of projected. His failure to perceive this fact shows how far he has drifted from the Tao. And when she offers him a lick of her lollipop, offers him the sweetness and nourishment of life, he replies: "I am not... hungry." This is clearly a denial of his will to live, unconsciously opting for one of the choices offered by the demons. And, of course, it hardly matters to the one offering the choice ("Suit yourself, mister."), because—as a symbolic expression of the Way—she cannot be affected. True serenity can only be found in chaos, as true stability is change.

What we have here is Chi gradually becoming suicidally depressed, if not actually schizophrenic. The recent Dark Angel storyline is about people not being who you think they are. The old man in #107 isn't the Dark Angel. The Dark Angel in #108 isn't the real Dark Angel. Chi is searching for the Dark Angel, for death. Next issue is called "Chameleons," so the identity-switching continues, and the only possible conclusion (in the long run, however this series goes) is that Chi is his own Dark Angel. That realization must serve as his enlightenment, setting him back on the path and giving him the strength to finally and totally reject his father. Therefore, and symmetrically (since all this began with the conclusion of his last encounter with Daddy Dearest), his new awareness should begin the next Fu Manchu epic, and this time we can expect one HECKUVA climax, maybe even the final death of the Doctor... although I don't really expect that.

Jon Leavitt
19 Maple Ave.
Newton, NH 03858

Thanks much, Jon. Gene and Doug have just no-awarded you their Critic of the Month Award. As soon as you locate an invisible frame, let us know and we'll send along the beautiful non-certificate...

Dear Doug and friends,

Rarely does a series hold me so enthralled that I will sit and read an entire run of some forty issues in one sitting! And rarer still does a comic take me away as completely as MOKF!

I recently picked up a batch of MOKF back issues and after being blown away by the adventures of Shang-Chi and company, I'm not sure who got the better deal—me or the guy I bought 'em from! You weave an extremely intricate and special world through this series, Doug—and that's coming from someone who doesn't especially like other manifestations of kung fu, Fu Manchu, or what I once thought was a garbage comic series! I simply couldn't help myself; you really made it impossible not to care about MOKF!

One question—will Gene Day now be the regular artist on the series?

Paul R. Davis
P.O. Box 18
Rumford Point, Maine 04279

You got it, Paul. Gene flexed his artistic muscles in #100 and has been our regular artist (with the exception of Mike Zeck's swansong in #101) ever since. We do have an upcoming two-parter by talented newcomer and disciple of the Gulacy school Rick Magyar, during which Gene will take fierce aim at the Dreaded Deadline target—but thereafter Mr. Day will resume contributing his unique layouts and character designs to MOKF just as long as he wants to.

To whom it may concern:

Please! A return of Brynocki!

G. Scott
4318 Duncan Dr.
Annandale, VA 22003

Goofy robots never die, eh? Indeed, the ones like Brynocki don't even seem to rust away. Well, keep the faith, G., even if Brynocki is not quite ready for a return bow.

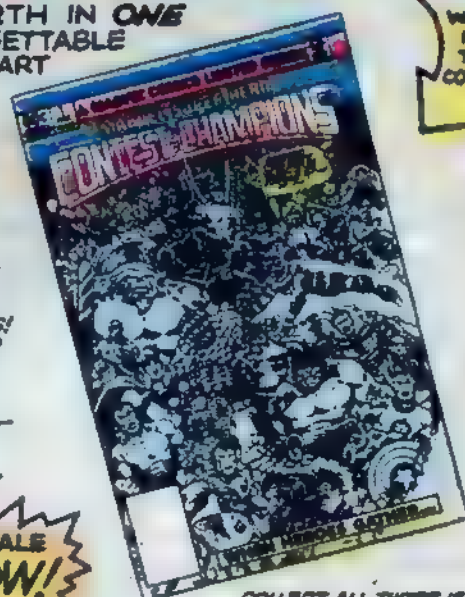
But speaking of old characters near and dear to our hearts, coming soon are...ew, rather than spoiling it, why don't we just say that the upcoming three-parter beginning with #116 and culminating with the special double-sized #118 will quite probably knock your checkered little socks off. Yeah, why not?

See you then.

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